# Traditional Uses of Some Wild Plants in Kale and Acıpayam Provinces in Denizli

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#### Abstract

Aim of study: With this study, it was aimed to determine some wild plants in the traditional uses in daily lives by local people for healing, treatment, food, spices, equipment, etc. purposes.

Area of study: The study area was Kale and Acıpayam provinces in Denizli between April and October 2016

*Material and Methods:* Plant materials were provided from villagers and county of Kale and Acipayam districts. In the identification of plants, "Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands" and "List of Turkish Plants" were used. To determine this, totally 60 people were interviewed face to face. The Informants' Consensus Factor (FIC) and Use Value (UV) formulas were used to analyze the data.

Main results: As a result of the surveys conducted with 60 people, 48 plant taxa belonging to 29 families have been identified. It has been determined that the plants with traditional use in the region are mostly used for the treatment of stomach disorders, respiratory diseases and pain relief. The most used parts of the plants have been leaves. The highest UV is Olea europaea L. var. sylvestris L. (0.65), and the lowest UV is Pulicaria dysenterica (L.) Bernh.. (0.05). The highest FIC value (0.86) is cold and flu.

Research highlights: Although Viscum album subsp. austriacum (Wiesb.) Vollman has been found to be used for different diseases in the literature, its use as a vasodilator drug was first determined by this study.

Keywords: Ethnobotany, traditional uses, herb, Denizli

# Kale ve Acıpayam Yöresinde (Denizli) Bazı Doğal Bitkilerin Geleneksel Kullanımları

Öz

*Çalışmanın Amacı*: Bu çalışma, yerel halkın sağlık, tedavi, gıda, baharat, araç-gereç gibi amaçlarla hangi bitkileri, nasıl kullanıldıklarını saptamak amacıyla yapılmıştır.

*Çalışma Alanı*: Çalışma 2016 yılı nisan ve ekim ayları arasında Denizli iline bağlı Kale ve Acıpayam ilçelerinde gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Materyal ve Yöntem: Çalışma materyalini Kale ve Acıpayam ilçelerinde yaşayan 60 yerel kişinin gösterdiği, toplanıp teşhis edildiği bitkiler oluşturmaktadır. Bitkilerin teşhisinde "Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands" and "List of Turkish Plants (Vascular Plants) adlı eserlerden yararlanılmıştır. Verilerin analizinde Denek Konsensüs Faktörü (FIC) ve Kullanım Değeri (UV) formülleri kullanılmıştır.

Temel Sonuçlar: 60 kişi ile yapılan anketler sonucunda 29 familyaya ait 48 bitki taksonu teşhis edilmiştir. Yörede geleneksel kullanımı olan bitkilerin daha çok mide rahatsızlıklarının, solunum yolu rahatsızlıklarının tedavisinde ve ağrı kesici olarak kullanıldığı tespit edilmiştir. Bitkilerin en çok kullanılan kısımları ise yaprakları olmuştur. En yüksek UV değeri 0.65 ile Olea europaea L. var. sylvestris L.'e, en düşük UV değeri ise 0.05 ile Pulicaria dysenterica (L.) Bernh.'ya aittir. En yüksek FIC değeri de 0.86 ile nezle ve grip için çıkmıştır.

Araştırma vurguları: Literatürde farklı kullanımları hakkında benzer çalışmalar kayıt edilmiştir. Ancak, bu çalışma ile Viscum album subsp. austriacum (Wiesb.) Vollman'un damar açıcı ilaç olarak kullanımı ilk kez saptanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Etnobotanik, geleneksel kullanım, şifalı bitki, Denizli



#### Introduction

Ethnology, composed of ethnos and logos, is a discipline dealing with the distribution, association and activities of different groups of people. The field of activity of the botany is the plants. Botany is a branch of biology and can be defined as the science of plant life. Botany, as well as called plant science, plant biology or phytology. Botany is one of the oldest disciplines in the world. In prehistoric times, people have defined, used and cultivated edible plants for medical purposes. Until the medieval period, herbalists have set up health gardens in many places, especially in the monasteries, in order to raise the plants thought to have healing powers. (Anonymous-1, 2018; Anonymous-2, 2018). Ethnobotanic is one of the most frequently used methods to reveal changes in the cultural values of societies in the modernization process using the plant-human relationship (Heinrich, Bernes, Gibbons & Williamson, 2004; Kendir and Güvenc, 2010). Ethnobotany is perceived as a term human-medicinal expresses relationships because people often use plants as medicines (Tütenocaklı, 2002).

Utilization of plants and treatment with plants dates back to 3000 BC. It is known that many famous Turkish scientists such as Abu Reyhan, Biruni, Ibn-i Sina and Ibn-i Baytar are dealing with herbal drugs (Eşen, 2008).

Because Turkey has a very rich flora and cultural structure, it is an important center in

terms of ethnobotany. In recent years there has been a significant increase in such studies (Uysal, Onar, Karabacak & Çelik, 2010; Polat & Satıl, 2012; Akaydın, Şimşek, Arıtuluk & Yeşilada, 2013; Gürdal & Kültür, 2013; Hayta, Polat & Selvi, 2014; Mükemre, Behçet & Cakilcioglu, 2015; Akbulut & Özkan, 2016).

This study aimed to determine some of wild plants used for local requirements and traditional treatments in the district of Denizli.

# Materials and Methods Study area

The Denizli Province geographically is a gateway between the Aegean, Central Anatolia and Mediterranean Regions, east of the Aegean Region, south-west of the peninsula. Denizli city Anatolian surrounded by Burdur and Afyon from the east, Muğla from the south, Aydın and Manisa from the west and Usak from the north. The study area is located between latitudes 37° 12'-38° 12' N and longitude 28° 30'-29° 30' E (Figure 1) (Anonymous-3, 2017). It falls within the southern part of B2 and the northern part of C2 grid square according to grid system of Turkey (Davis, 1965). 58% of Denizli forests are productive and 42% are non-productive forests. The forests in the region are generally composed of calabrian pine, black pine, oak, juniper, cedar and other species (Anonymous, 2017).

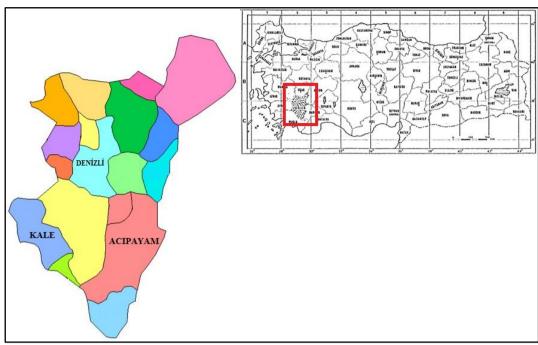


Figure 1. Location of Denizli in grid system of Turkey (Davis, 1965)

### **Plant Materials and Informants**

This study was conducted to determine some wild plant species which are used for local requirements and traditional treatments of diseases by local people in Kale and Acıpayam provinces of Denizli. Plant materials were obtained from Acipayam and Kale districts and villages. These plants were identified using the flora list of Turkey (Vascular Plants) (Davis 1965-1985; Davis, Mill & Tan, 1988; Güner, Özhatay, Ekim & Baser, 2000; Güner, Aslan, Ekim, Vural & Babaç, 2012). In the study, a two-part questionnaire was applied to total of 60 informants (Appendix A). The questionnaires were applied face to face. The first part of the questionnaire aimed to determine the demographic characteristics such as age, gender, educational level, occupation. In the second part of the questionnaire, vernacular names, part used and preparation technics, and unwritten uses of the plants were noted.

## **Data Analysis**

The Informants Consensus Factor (FIC), the first of the equations used in the analysis of the data, is used to determine the homogeneity of the information obtained by the surveys. FIC was developed by Trotter and Logan (1986). FIC value ranges from 0

to 1, where '1' indicates the highest level of informant consent

$$FIC = Nur - Nt / (Nur - 1)$$

Nur, the number of references in each group. Nt is the number of plants utilized (Trotter and Logan, 1986).

Another parameter used for data analysis is "Use Value (UV)". It is used to determine the value of UV (Use Value) that quantitatively expresses the importance of local use of plants:

$$UV = U/N$$

U is the number of references per species and N is the number of people who say the species is used (Trotter and Logan, 1986; Albuquerque, Lucena, Montero, Florentino & Almeida, 2006; Abe and Ohtani, 2013).

#### **Results and Discussions**

A total 60 informants (27 male, 33 female) were interviewed. The average age of the informants is 57. Some demographic characteristics of the informants are given in Table 1.

A total of 48 taxa belonging to 29 families were identified in the study. *Lamiaceae* (9), *Rosaceae* (6), and *Poaceae* (4) are the most used families. The most preferred methods of preparation are infusion (21), fresh (14), and decoction (10). The most commonly used parts of plants were leaves. The leaves are

followed by flowers and fruit respectively. The results obtained from the study are given in Table 2.

Table 1. Demographic features of the informants

Features	Number of informants	Percentage (%)	
Gender	momans	(70)	
Male	27	45	
Female	33	55	
Educational level			
Illiterate	3	5.0	
Primary school	17	28.3	
Middle school	16	26.7	
High school	20	33.3	
University	4	6.7	
Age Groups			
30-49	17	28.3	
50-69	33	55.0	
>69	10	16.7	
Occupation			
Worker	8	13.3	
Farmer	23	38.3	
Artisan	6	10.0	
Officer	5	8.3	
Retired	10	16.7	
Housewife	8	13.3	

According to the results of the study, plants are mostly used to treatment of cold and flu, respiratory tract diseases, stomach disorders, digestive system disorders, laxative, diuretic, painkiller, skin disorders, vascular disorder. The species used mostly for the treatment of stomach disorders were Liquidambar Arum dioscoridis Sm., orientalis Mill., Matricaria chamomilla L. recutita (L.) Grierson, **Berberis** crataegina DC., Hypericum perforatum L., Lavandula angustifolia Mill.. Mentha pulegium L., Sideritis libanotica Labill., Thymus longicaulis C.Pres, Rubus canescens DC. (Table 2). Similar results were found in the studies in the ethnobotanical field in Turkey (Everest and Oztürk, 2005; Ezer and Mumcu Arısan, 2006; Koçyiğit and Özhatay, 2006; Kültür, 2007; Uysal et al., 2010; Polat and Satıl, 2012; Tahri, El Basti, Zidane,

Rochdi & Douira, 2012; Akbulut and Bayramoğlu, 2013; Gürdal and Kültür, 2013; Akyol and Altan, 2013; Mükemre et al., 2015).

The results of the study showed that some plants used for food in Denizli were used in different regions in a similar way (*Arum dioscoridis* Sm., *Sinapis arvensis* L., *Malva sylvestris* L., *Rumex tuberosus* L. subsp. L. *tuberosus*, *Crataegus azarolus* L. var. *azarolus*, *Rosa canina* L., *Rubus canescens* DC., *Rubus idaeus* L.) (Uysal et al., 2010; Öztürk, 2006; Dogan, Baslar, Ay & Mert, 2004; Sağıroğlu, Dalgıç & Toksoy, 2013; Akaydın et al., 2013; Özçelik and Balabanlı, 2005; Akyol and Altan, 2013; Sargın, Selvi & Lopez, 2015; Ertuğ, Tümen, Çelik & Dirmenci, 2004; Akbulut and Özkan, 2016).

Although *Arum dioscoridis* Sm. is poisonous, it is one of the species used for cooking in the region. The plant is thoroughly cooked in water before it is eaten. In the Eastern Black Sea region, the roots of this plant are consumed in a similar way (Akbulut and Özkan, 2016).

In the present study, *Viscum album* subsp. *austriacum* (Wiesb.) Vollman was used to treat vasodilator. According to the literature analysis, the use of *Viscum album* subsp. *austriacum* as a vasolidator was recorded for the first time in this study (Bulut, Bozkurt & Tuzlacı, 2017; Akbulut and Özkan, 2016; Polat and Satıl, 2012; Kumar, Paul & Anand, 2009).

It was determined in the study that *Arundo donax* L. was used for making stick and arbour. *Tamarix smyrnensis* Bunge was used for making saddle by the local people.

Echinophora tenuifolia subsp. sibthorpiana (Guss.) Tutin is a plant that is often used in making "tarhana", a soup that is unique to the region.

Salvia officinalis L., Alcea rosea L., and Morus nigra L. are exotic taxa that are not a part of the flora of Turkey. However, Salvia officinalis L. and Morus nigra L. are cultured and traded.

Table 2. Traditional uses of plants in Denizli

Family	Botanical name	Vernacular name	Part used	Preparations	Traditional uses	UV
Araceae	Arum dioscoridis Sm.	Yılan bıçağı	Leaves	Infusion, juice	Pass a kidney stone, stomachache, heartburn, food, eczema (externally juice)	0.20
Altinginaceae	Liquidambar orientalis Mill.	Günlük, Buhur ağacı	Styrax oil	Internally oil with honey and butter	Stomach diseases	0.08
Apiaceae	Echinophora tenuifolia subsp. sibthorpiana (Guss.) Tutin	Çörtlük, Tarhana otu	Flowering and leafy shoots	Dried	Tarhana preparing, aromatizer, pickle making, prevents fermenting in pickles	0.32
Apocynaceae	Nerium oleander L.	Zakkum	Flowers, leaves	Decoction (mixed with olive oil or tobacco sap)	Sarcopticide (externally), muscicide (for tobacco field)	0.15
Asteraceae	Matricaria chamomilla L. var. recutita (L.) Grierson	Babatça	Flowers, leaves	Infusion	Stomach disorders	0.23
Asteraceae	Pulicaria dysenterica (L.) Bernh.	Pireotu	Flowers	Decoction	Decoction is mixed with olive oil and henna. Hair dye is obtained. Fresh fruits	0.05
Berberidaceae	Berberis crataegina DC.	Kadıntuzluğu	Fruit, leaves	Fresh, infusion	regulate blood circulation, decrease blood pressure. Leaf tea strengthens the stomach. Leaves are used in making salads.	0.23
Brassicaceae	Armoracia rusticana (Lam.) P.Gaertn., B.Mey. &	Bayır turpu	Root	Juice (with honey)	Body resistance	0.07
Brassicaceae	Schreb. Sinapis arvensis L.	Hardal	Leaves	Fresh, cooking	Foodstuff	0.30
Cupressaceae	Juniperus oxycedrus L.	Katran ardıcı	Wood, cone	Extraxt (mixed water)	Blood purifier	0.38
Cyperaceae	Carex L.	Kındıra	Root	Decoction	Diuretic	0.12
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia L.	Sütleğen	Latex	Externally	Wart	0.22
Fabaceae	Glycyrrhiza glabra L. Quercus	Bıyan	Root	Decoction	Bronchitis, antitussive Milk yield for	0.33
Fagaceae	coccifera L.	Meșe Peliti	Flowers	Fresh, dried	livestock	0.43
Hypericaceae	Hypericum perforatum L.	Sarı Kantaron	Flowers, dried shoots	Infusion, oil	Stomach disorders, cancer, painkiller	0.48

Table 2. (continued)

	Lavandula				Tranquillizer,	
Lamiaceae	angustifolia Mill.	Lavanta	Flowers	Infusion	stomachache	0.18
Lamiaceae	Mentha pulegium L.	Nane	Leaves	Decoction	Stomach diseases, qualm	0.63
Lamiaceae	Origanum onites L.	Deli kekik	Flowers, leaves	Infusion	Cold and flu, against rise of the blood sugar level	0.22
Lamiaceae	Rosmarinus officinalis L.	Biberiye	Leaves	Infusion	Cold, headache, migraine Throat ache,	0.15
Lamiaceae	Salvia officinalis L.*, e	Adaçayı	Leaves	Infusion	tonsilitis, pyorrhoea, carminative, anti- nausea, diuretic, sweat off	0.48
Lamiaceae	Sideritis arguta Boiss. & Heldr.	Dağ çayı	Leaves, flowers	Infusion	Digestive disorders, rheumatism pains, antitussive, sore throat, cold and flu	0.32
Lamiaceae	Sideritis libanotica Labill.	Dağ Çayı	Leaves, flowers	Infusion	Cold and flu, stomachache	0.32
Lamiaceae	Teucrium chamaedrys L.	Dalakotu	Flowering shoots	Infusion	Relieve the abdominal pain, haemorrhoids	0.17
Lamiaceae	Thymus longicaulis C.Pres	Kekik	Leaves, flowers	Decoction	Stomach discomfort, prostate, painkiller, constipation Expectorant,	0.40
Malvaceae	Alcea rosea L.e	Devegülü	Seeds, leaves	Infusion	antitussive, cold, bronchitis, against throat, mouth and teeth	0.07
Malvaceae	Malva sylvestris L.	Ebegümeci	Leaves, flowers	Decoction, fry	inflammations Anti- inflammatory, food	0.48
Moraceae	Morus nigra L.*	Karadut	Leaves, root bark, fruit	Infusion	Chlorothiazide, gingiva diseases, chapped lips	0.46
Myrtaceae	Myrtus communis L.	Mersin	Flowers, Leaves	Fresh, decoction	Skin disorders, diarrhea, spices	0.28
Nitrariaceae	Peganum harmala L.	Nazarotu	Seeds	Amulet	For religious beliefs	0.08
Oleaceae	Olea europaea L. var. sylvestris L.*	Zeytin	Leaves	Decoction	Diabetes, chlorothiazide	0.65
Papaveraceae	Papaver rhoeas L.	Gelincik	Flowers, leaves	Cooking	Galactagogue, gynaecological diseases	0.13
Poaceae	Arundo donax L.	Kargı	Stem	Fresh, dried	Used for making stick and arbour	0.40
Poaceae	Echinochloa crus-galli (L.) P. Beauv.	Darıcan	Parts of plant	Fresh, dried	Animal feed	0.17

Table 2. (continued)

_	Elymus flaccidifolius				Prostate, blood	
Poaceae	(Boiss. & Heldr.) Melderis Sorghum	Ayrıkotu	Root	Infusion	purifier	0.10
Poaceae	halepense (L.) Pers. var. halepense (L.) Pers.	Kaynaş	Parts of plant	Dried	Animal feed	0.10
Polygonaceae	Rumex tuberosus L. subsp. L. tuberosus	Kuzukulak	Leaves, flowers	Decoction, cooking	Digestive system disease, food	0.20
Portulacaceae	Portulaca oleracea L.	Semizotu	Leaves	Fresh	Lose weight, laxative	0.37
Rhamnaceae	Ziziphus jujuba Mill.	Hünnap	Fruits	Fresh, infusion	Diabetes, chest pain, diuretic, diarrhea and laxative	0.45
Rosaceae	Amygdalus webbii Spach	Badem, payam	Fruits, seeds	Fresh	Blood glucose value and cholesterol level regulator, antitussive	0.30
Rosaceae	Crataegus azarolus L. var. azarolus	Alıç	Fruits, leaves	Infusion, fresh, syrup	Headache, digestive system diseases, food	0.18
Rosaceae	Pyrus elaeagnifolia Pall.	Çöğür armudu	Fruits	Fresh	Blood glucose regulator, cardio protective, laxative, pass a kidney stone, diuretic, digestive	0.27
Rosaceae	Rosa canina L.	Kuşburnu	Fruits	Infusion, marmalade	Cold, food	0.42
Rosaceae	Rubus canescens DC.	Böğürtlen	Root, fruits	Infusion	Diuretic, anti- inflammatory, stomach discomfort, food	0.18
Rosaceae	Rubus idaeus L.	Ahududu	Fruits, leaves	Fresh, infusion	Food, gingiva diseases	0.20
Santalaceae	Viscum album subsp. austriacum (Wiesb.) Vollman	Burç, hurç	Leaves	Infusion, fresh	Vasodilator, fodder	0.12
Tamaricaceae	Tamarix smyrnensis Bunge	Ilgın	Branches	Fresh	Saddle	0.42
Ulmaceae	Celtis tournefortii Lam.	Çıtlık	Thin branches	Bracelet	Used against nazara	0.13
Verbenaceae	Vitex agnus- castus L.	Ayıt, Hayıt	Branches, leaves, fruit	External, infusion	Making basket, antifebrile, fruit ripening, diuretic, carminative, sedative, intestinal regulator	0.12

<sup>\*:</sup> Cultivated plant in Turkey, e: Egzotic plant

According to the calculations, Olea europaea L. var. sylvestris L. (0.65), Mentha pulegium L (0.63), Malva sylvestris L. (0.48), Salvia officinalis L. (0.48), Hypericum perforatum L. (0.48), and Morus nigra L. (0.46) were reported to be of the highest use value (UV). Peganum harmala L. (0.08), Liquidambar orientalis Mill. (0.08), Alcea rosea L (0.07), Armoracia rusticana (Lam.) P.Gaertn., B.Mey. & Schreb. (0.07), and Pulicaria dysenterica (L.) Bernh. (0.05) were found to be of the lowest UV value (Table 3). The high UV value of Olea europaea L. var. sylvestris originates from the fact that it is an

important commercial product as well as its medicinal properties in the region.

Information on medicinal use of plants with low UV values such as *Peganum harmala*, *Liquidambar orientalis*, *Alcea rosea*, *Armoracia rusticana*, *Pulicaria dysenterica* was obtained from people over middle age. The plants with higher UV values (*Olea europaea*, *Mentha pulegium*, *Morus nigra*) are more popular in the middle age group due to their popularity and widespread use in recent years. In addition, the commercial use of these plants is very high.

Table 3. Comparison of UV values

-	Use value (UV)						
Species	Duagant	Mükemre	Polat	Polat	Cakılcıoğlu	Polat	Tetik
Species	Present	et al. 2015	et al.	et al.	et al.	& Satıl	et al.
	study		2013	2015	2011	2012	2013
Rosa canina L.	0.42	0.23	0.50	0.46	0.55	0.52	0.40
Mentha pulegium L.	0.63	0.21	0.30	-	0.30	0.34	-
Hypericum perforatum L.	0.48	-	0.27	0.40	0.32	-	-
Morus nigra L.	0.46	-	0.31	0.23	-	-	-

Comparisons of the plants with the highest UV values compared to the previous studies are given in Table 3.

According to the information obtained from the participants, recorded discomfort issues were collected under 9 headings (Table 4). The FIC values in the study range from 0.53 to 0.86. "Cold and flu" had the highest FIC rate (0.86) (37 use-reports for 6 plant species). Origanum onites L., Rosmarinus officinalis L., Sideritis arguta Boiss. & Heldr., Sideritis libanotica Labill., Alcea rosea L., Rosa canina L. were reported to be among the plant remedies indicated for this use.

The high FIC value for cold and flu suggests that the disease is very common in this region because of the very cold and hard winter months. The low FIC value of vascular disorders can be explained by vegetarian diet and overuse of olive oil (Table 4).

Table 4. Informant consensus factor (FIC) for each ailment

101 Cach annient			
Ailment categories	Number of use report (Nur)	Number of taxa (Nt)	FIC
Cold and flu	37	6	0.86
Respiratory tract	21	6	0.75
diseases			
Stomach disorders	40	11	0.74
Digestive system	25	8	0.71
disorders			
Laxative	9	4	0.63
Diuretic	13	6	0.58
Painkiller	8	4	0.57
Skin disorders	12	6	0.54
Vascular disorder	18	9	0.53

#### **Conclusions**

In this study, 48 herbal and aromatic plants belonging to 29 families were determined in the study site. Salvia officinalis, Alcea rosea, and Morus nigra cultivated plants. Olea europaea, another cultivated plant, is also produced in a very large area. These plants provide significant commercial returns on both domestic and international markets. Ethnobotanical

information is also being considered by fewer people because of commercial concerns. However, Tarhana (*Echinophora tenuifolia* subsp. *sibthorpiana*) is a plant which is mostly sold in local markets for food purposes and is considered as a traditional flavor in tourism.

The continuity of ethnobotanical studies is crucial to reveal the new uses of different plants. The results of these studies contribute to many fields such as medicine, pharmaceutical, paint industry and food industry.

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# Appendix A.

- 1- Age and sex of the informant.
- 2- Marital status of the informant.
- 3- Educational level of the informant.
- 4- Occupation of the informant.
- 5- Place of residence of the informant.
- 6- What are the medical plants you know?
- 7- For what purposes do you use medical plants?
  - 8- Which parts of plants are you using?
  - 9- How do you prepare the preparation?
- 10- What is the vernacular name of the plant used?
- 11- What are the poisonous plants you know? How do you use them?
- 12- What are the food plants you know? How do you use them?
- 13- Do you use auxiliary substances when preparing the preparation?

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