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Medicinal plant gardens as centres of genetic resources: a case of *Alisma plantago-aquatica*

Y. Ito

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Setsunan University, Japan

Corresponding author email: yu.ito@pharm.setsunan.ac.jp

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Medicinal plant gardens are principally established and maintained for education of pharmacist candidates. Home to hundreds of medicinal plants, these gardens may also represent centres of genetic resources. This study aims to reveal if and how much medicinal plant gardens hold collections of living medicinal plants with focus on a medicinally important aquatic plant, *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Alismataceae), as a case study. A previous study genetically analysed wild samples of *A. plantago-aquatica* s.l. in the world and revealed that the species can be divided into two species, *A. plantago-aquatica* s.s. and *A. orientale*, which are morphologically hardly distinguishable from each other. In the present study, I applied DNA barcoding for crude drugs made from *A. plantago-aquatica* s.l. and included two types, one from *A. plantago-aquatica* s.s and the other from *A. orientale*. The results indicate that the two plant species are subjects for cultivation as genetic resources in medicinal plant gardens. In the presentation, we will report if and how much the two species exist in medicinal plant gardens in Japan.