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## About the Cover

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*Cynomorium coccineum* L also known as Trathuth, the Maltese fungus or Maltese mushroom; desert thumb, red thumb, and *suo yang* (Chinese). It is a perennial parasite that grows in dry, rocky or sandy soils, often in salt marshes or other saline habitats close to the coast in the South and South West of Qatar. The plant hosting the parasitic fungus consists in large fleshy underground rhizomes producing above ground large fleshy spikes with minute dark reddish flowers. The whole plant dries and turns black with the parasitic fungus at end of season In Qatar it was traditionally used to treat colic or stomach ulcers, as a remedy for hemorrhoids as well as for nasal and uterine bleeding; it was a known aphrodisiac, spermatopoeitic, tonic, astringent and is used for bile obstruction. It is consumed dry as it as a tea or a spice or as condiment with meat dishes.

In this issue investigators from Qatar University and North Dakota State University present the potential the biological activity of some traditional edible plants of Qatar.

