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APPLICATION OF NATURAL PLANT EXTRACTS TO NORMAL MEDICAL TREATMENT PROCESS OF INJURED SEA TURTLES

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Sea turtles are endangered species all around the world. Two species of sea turtles loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are using Turkey's Mediterranean coastline for nesting and foraging. Dozens of sea turtles are being injured or died in consequence of fishery interactions, speed boat accidents, ghost nets etc. along the coastline of Turkey. The first sea turtle rescue centre (DEKAMER) in Turkey was established in 2008 and a total of 101 injured turtles were admitted to the centre, during 2008-2014. Most turtles are being admitted by serious head injuries and, amputated extremities, carapace damage. Treatment of these injuries requires long term rehabilitation process. There are many medication was described for sea turtles but a need of a faster medication techniques are obvious. We used a new medication in order to fasten recovery process of traumatic injuries on sea turtles. Six loggerhead individuals with serious head injuries and a green turtle individual with an amputated front-right extremity treated with topical antibiotics, beeswax and amber (*Liquidambar orientalis*) tree resins. We also used the extracts obtained from the a lichen species (*Pseudevernia furfuracea* var. *furfuracea*) and the seeds of Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*). Head injuries recovered very fast in 9 months period. Amputated area of green turtle was also recovered in 4 months period at relatively low metabolism rate during winter which reduces recovery rate of injured turtles. Using new therapeutic medications with natural and herbal support resulted positively in a small group of patients admitted to DEKAMER. It's quite likely that using this method may increase treatment of injured turtles and shorten the duration of treatment at rehabilitation centres.