

Review Articles

***Panace@: Revista de medicina, lenguaje y traducción.*
Volumen XX, n° 50. Barcelona: Tremédica, 2019,
122 pp. ISSN 1537-1964**

As stated by the editors on the introductory pages of this volume, the *Panace@* journal was born with the aim of spreading scientific knowledge by publishing original texts on various aspects of translation, medical language, and related sciences. This publication, which makes up the 50th issue of such journal, includes a monographic edition of the second semester of 2019 and brings together a total of 15 compositions along its 122 pages, which are organized in five different sections presenting, in various ways, a link between translational praxis and the vast field of medical science.

The first differentiated section in the publication is entitled *Editorial*. In it, Dr Ana María Cabo-González (University of Seville), begins by mentioning the work of Universities as cornerstones of the treatment, study and spreading of scientific knowledge in the field of Arab Studies, and then goes on to provide a summary but detailed description of all eight articles that make up the second section of the magazine, entitled *Tribuna*.

The first of the articles included in the *Tribuna* section is the work of Camilo Álvarez de Morales (School of Arabic Studies of Granada), entitled *El arte de sanar en la Andalucía islámica* [*The Art of Healing in Islamic Andalusia*]. Its author delves into the medical praxis and the art of healing as they were understood in al-Andalus, showing us that the medicine practiced by the Andalusians, heir to a large extent to the Greco-Latin and Persian tradition, did not enjoy the status of an autonomous science; rather, it was the result of a peculiar syncretism in which magic, religion, astrology, superstition and alchemy formed an inseparable whole.

The second work is called *Una incorporación norteafricana y andalusí de la farmacopea medieval: los tubérculos comestibles Sonchus bulbosus (L.) N. Kilian*

& Greuter [*A North African and Andalusí Incorporation to the Medieval Pharmacopoeia: The Edible Tubers of *Sonchus bulbosus* (L.) N. Kilian & Greuter*], by Joaquín Bustamante-Costa (University of Cádiz). This article aims to accurately identify said tubers, for which different phytonyms are offered coming from a detailed study that analyzes the work of different Arab authors from that period. Among other details, its flavor, harvest and, especially, its pharmacological properties are accounted for.

A third article, entitled *Interesante reflexión de Ibn al-Dahabī (s. XI) sobre el secreto de la vida: el agua* [*An Interesting Reflection on the Secret of Life by Ibn al-Dahabī (11th century): Water*], by Ana María Cabo-González and Mila Mohamed-Salem, focuses on the only work by the aforementioned author: the *Kitāb al-Mā'*. After a first autobiographical section on the life and adventures of its writer, a translation into Spanish of the first chapter of the compendium is presented under the premise that the *Kitāb al-Mā'* was conceived as a treaty that mainly combines Arabic language and medicine together, but also includes information taken from linguistic, literary, medical, botanical or pharmacological sources, as well as from Galen and Dioscorides. In that first chapter, the author expounds the different properties of water and the manifold benefits it has for health.

The title of the next composition, by Miquel Forcada (University of Barcelona), is *Granada safarī e higo dunniqāl: la transmissió de nombres y especies en al-Andalus* [*Safarī Pomegranate and Dunniqāl Fig: The Translation of Names and Species in al-Andalus*]. Its author, after thoroughly researching both Arab and Iberian historical sources, offers a series of conclusions on the cultivation of these varieties of pomegranate and fig, which still exists in Andalusia, providing a large number of descriptions and explanations of Arabisms used to name said fruits.

The fifth article in the journal is entitled *La medicina árabe medieval* [*Medieval Arab Medicine*], by Fernando Girón-Irueste (University of Granada, retired). This author performs an in-depth explanation of the development of medicine between the 9th and 15th centuries and highlights the complex process of translation of the works coming from Hellenistic Greece and the Persian and Syriac sources, which in turn enabled the development of medicine through Spanish-Arab scholars such as Avicenna, Rhazes, Averroes, Abulcasis or Avenzoar and, above all, made it possible to lay the foundations of a scientific legacy that was to have a marked influence on the Renaissance and that would be met with rapid diffusion after the spread of the printing press.

The next composition, by Indalecio Lozano-Cámara (University of Granada), is entitled *Historia social y científica de la adormidera y del opio en el islam clásico: fuentes primarias y propuesta de investigación* [*Social and Scientific History of Opium Poppy and Opium in Classic Islam: Primary Sources and Research Proposal*], and rests on the premise that, despite the fact that opium and opium poppy have been widely known and used throughout the history of mankind for their healing and psychoactive properties, it is actually striking how

little treatment they have had in the field of Arab and Islamic studies. Therefore, this article aims to lay the foundations for future research on the subject by providing comprehensive bibliography from Arab, Persian, Indian, Turkish, Greco-Latin and European sources in order to prepare multidisciplinary studies on the contributions and properties of these substances in the field of Arab science.

The penultimate article in this section is the work of Juan Perro Monferrer-Sala (University of Córdoba): *Traducciones árabes de fitónimos griegos y sus correspondencias arameas y hebreas* [*Arabic Translations of Greek Phytonyms and their Aramaic and Hebrew Equivalences*]. Its author studies a total of 21 phytonyms found in an Arabic version of the text of “Song of Songs” and carries out a comparative study in which he provides a list of each phytonym in three languages intertwined by tradition (Greek, Arabic and Hebrew), indicating the verse in which they appear and completing their study with a translation of each word into Spanish.

The eighth and final article of the Tribuna section is *La terapia alternativa de la medicina árabe medieval* [Alternative Therapies in Medieval Arab Medicine], by Concepción Vázquez de Benito (University of Salamanca). It studies the *khawāṣṣ* or peculiar virtues of certain medicines that were used in medieval Arab medicine to treat diseases such as epilepsy and other issues related to gynecology and obstetrics. The author delves into the main Arab authors versed in the *‘Ilm al-Khawāṣṣ* or “Science of occult properties” to present us with the different properties of these substances, used in various magical-superstitious procedures in the aforementioned areas.

The 8 articles that make up the Tribuna section yield to a smaller group of pieces of writing called *Reseñas*. As its name suggests, this part of the journal consists of three different reviews. The first one, written by Jaime Coullaut-Cordero and Concepción Vázquez de Benito, analyzes a book named *El Libro del árbol de Ibn al-Kattānī: Un tratado médico andalusí*. The book describes the historical context of the aforementioned Cordovan doctor and includes a translation of his work accompanied by a glossary of medical terms. The second work, produced by Concepción Vázquez de Benito and María Teresa Herrera, reviews the book *Los arabismos de los textos médicos latinos y castellanos de la Edad Media y de la Modernidad*, which provides list of anatomical, pathological, pharmacological and dietary terms in Arabic, Latin and Spanish, with the aim of carrying out a study that backs up the imprint left by the Arab medical legacy in neo-Latin medical culture. The third review is entitled *Visibilizar las enfermedades raras: una tarea común*. Written by Soledad Díaz-Alarcón (University of Córdoba), it reports on how RECOR, an online portal that provides linguistic resources on the field of rare diseases in English, French and Spanish, can assist students and specialists in medical translation.

The next section of the journal, *Entremeses*, consists of only four texts discussing different topics, one page long each. The first of them, *De los trabajos y recompensas de la traducción*, by José Luis Agud, shows the author’s reflections

on the translator's work and the feelings he has both when he encounters difficulties in his work and when he succeeds in best rendering the content of a text. In the second, *És adequat dir «un brot de listèria?*, TERMCAT advises about correct word formation for infectious diseases in the Catalan language and condemns the erroneous use of these terms in informal or journalistic registers. The third one, *I amb la tornada a les aules, també tornen els polls!*, describes the different types of lice along with a series of related Catalan terms. Finally, the fourth text, *Formantes griegos en el ámbito biosanitario: el caso de "topos"*, by Alejandro García-Aragón discusses the different fields of knowledge that use terms derived from this Greek formant and highlights a particular case in the health field where word "ectopic" is a false friend.

The text of this Panace@ journal winds up with a section named *Nuestra ilustradora*, in which María Luisa Rodríguez-Muñoz (University of Córdoba) dedicates an *oda a los cuasicristales de Inmaculada Rodríguez-Cunill*, this being the name of the illustrator of the reviewed journal. Her work and professional career are discussed in this section.

And so finishes the 50th issue of the Panace@ journal, which proves itself to be a collaborative work that crystallizes in a scientific publication in which interesting reflections and well-documented research converge in order to deal with very diverse topics, all written in a very readable fashion. A pleasant, enjoyable, and enriching read that allows us to expand our knowledge, directly or indirectly, about the multiple aspects that fit in the vast field of medical science and Arabic language.

ÁLVARO SUÁREZ ORTIZ