

CONFLICTS IN THE TRANSLATION OF MEDICINAL PLANT NAMES FROM ARABIC TO MALAY

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ABSTRACT

To this day, a dictionary of medicinal plants still has yet to be compiled and published by anyone, either from Arabic to Malay, nor English to Malay. Therefore, it is about time for a dictionary or encyclopedia related to medicinal plants to be published in this country. However, the effort to translate the name of plants is not an easy thing, but has to deal with all kinds of conflicts, especially in choosing the most suitable match of translation for a particular medicinal plant. In this paper, the author will address four types of conflicts typically encountered by medicinal plants translators, especially from Arabic to Malay. The four types of conflicts are (1) naming of two different plants with the same name, (2) one name of plant referring to two different plants from two different places, (3) one name of plant referring to two different plants due to the different period of time, and (4) one name of plant referring to various species and genus of different plants.

Keywords : Translation of medicinal plants, Arabic-Malay translation of the name of plants

INTRODUCTION

Recent developments in medicine have seen a rapid growth in the study of plants as a source for medicines. This was then driven by high interest amongst people on natural source of medicines, whether for treatment of illness, health care, as well as prevention for diseases, including in the aspects of beauty and self-appearance. This effort will definitely be more interesting if there was an encyclopedia that compiles as many as possible, the medicinal plants that have been discovered all over the world. But unfortunately, until this day there is still no encyclopedia of medicinal plants available in this country, either from English to Malay, or from Arabic to Malay.

Therefore, the author is currently working hard to complete the *Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants Names in Arabic-Malay-English-Scientific* under a research grant sponsored by Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Tanjong Malim, Perak. However, the arrangement of such encyclopedia is not an easy task, as easy as copying and pasting information abstracted from various sources related to medicinal plants. This is due to the fact that most of the medicinal plants in Arabic have yet to have a match in Malay, especially those of Mediterranean plants, tropical monsoon, temperate climate, desert, savanna, and so on that are not common in Equatorial countries like Malaysia.

Apart from that, while compiling this encyclopedia, the author went through various conflicts in choosing the most accurate translation matches in Malay, English, and the scientific name of plants. These conflicts occurred as there were many contradictions in translation from the references used in the compilation of this encyclopedia. In this article, the authors will describe four types of conflicts often experienced by the authors, as follows:

- 1) naming of two different plants with the same name,
- 2) one plant name that refers to two different plants from two different places,
- 3) one plant name that refers to two different plants due to different period of time,
- 4) one plant name that refers to various species and genus of different plants.

This article is a continuation of the study conducted by four students of Bachelor in Arabic Language with Education from the Faculty of Languages and Communications, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) during the previous second semester of 2016/2017 academic session. The four students, namely Nur Huwaida bt. Mohd. Hasan, Wan Nor Syuhada bt. Wan Ali, Siti Amirah bt. Syeikh Othman, and Aisyah bt. Zulkifli carried out a study on three well-known bilingual dictionaries; *Kamus Besar Arab-Melayu Dewan*, *Kamus Arab-Melayu al-Khalil al-Islamiy*, and *Kamus al-Miftah Arab-Melayu*. In the study, they discovered that there were too many mistakes in the Malay translation of medicinal plant names in Arabic. However, the results of the study did not provide any reasons or causes for the mistakes. Therefore, this article will explain some of the causes for the mistakes which include four conflicts which will be discussed later on.

The study in this article includes references from various types of dictionaries, encyclopedias, and books, as well as several different websites accessible through *Google Search* on the Internet. The selection of the dictionaries and books was based on the information regarding medicinal plants contained in the dictionaries or books which influenced the matching of medicinal plants in Malay language. Therefore, two categories of dictionaries and books were determined, namely dictionaries and books describing the names of medicinal plant in Arabic during the old times and another category was dictionaries and encyclopedias describing the names of medicinal plant in Arabic nowadays.

As for the first category, the author used three main references, namely *Al-Mu'jam al-Wasit* dictionary which is considered as reliable when it comes to the definition of words in Arabic, the *Canon of Medicine, Book II Materia Medica* book, which is the English translation version of the book *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* by Ibnu Sina produced by the Department of Islamic Studies, University of Hamdard, New Delhi, India, and the third book, *The Canon of Medicine, Volume 2 Natural Pharmaceuticals* which is the English translation version of *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* done by Laleh Bakhtiar.

As for the second category, the author also used three main references, namely *Al-Mawrid, A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary* by Rohi Baalbaki, *Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences* by Adwar Ghalib, and *Chihabi's Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology* by Ahmad Sh. Al-Khatib. In order to ensure accurate translation, whether it is translated into Malay, English, or even scientific names of medicinal plant in Arabic, the author would make additional references on the Internet, particularly by studying the information with regard to the related plants on www.wikipedia.org website. Once matches that were parallel and similar with one another had been found, only then the matching Malay, English and scientific names were used by the author.

THE FIRST CONFLICT THE NAMING OF TWO DIFFERENT PLANTS WITH THE SAME NAME

When looking for the most accurate matches in Malay of a plant name in Arabic, a translator may deal with a situation where there are two different translations of one plant name in Arabic. Both translations would have a solid foundation to be trusted as the translation is sourced from more than one reliable references. An example of this first conflict can be seen in the translation of إكليل الملك plant.

In *Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences*, Adwar Ghalib (1965: 1/113) translated إكليل الملك into *crown imperial* in English with the scientific name *Fritillaria imperialis*. The same translation was done by John H. Wiersema (2016: 313) in *World Economic Plants: A Standard Reference, Second Edition*. This translation is believed to be based on a description by Ibn Sina in the *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* book. Ibn Sina (1994: 1/425) mentioned:

هو زهر نبات تبنّي اللون هلالِي الشكل فيه مع تخلخله صلابة ما

A brown crescent-shaped flower. Even though this flower is delicate, it still has certain solid features.

The phrase اللون تبنّي which means *brown in colour*, is the primary indicator that the إكليل الملك plant meant by Ibn Sina refers to *Fritillaria imperialis* since the plant is naturally reddish brown (see Figure 1). However, both who translated *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* book into English, namely the Department of Islamic Studies, Hamdard University (Avicenna, 1998: 73) and Laleh Bakhtiar (Avicenna, 2012: 720) had translated إكليل الملك as *king's clover* or *melilot* with the scientific name *Melilotus officinalis*. This translation is believed to be based on the explanation by Ibn Sina in *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* of the Rome printed edition. In this version, Ibn Sina (1971: 90) mentioned:

ورقه كورق الحلبية وهي نبات نافع للصدر والسعال والربو والبلغم والبواسير والظهر والكبد والمثانة ورائحته كورق التين ونوره أصفر في طرف كل غصن منه إكليل كنعف دائرة بزره كالحلبة شكلاً ولونه أصفر

The leaves of this plant (Melilotus officinalis) are like fenugreek leaves. This plant is good for the chest, back, liver, and urinary bladder, and also good for treating cough, asthma, phlegm, and haemorrhoids. The smell (leaves) of this plant is similar to (smell) the fig leaves. The flowers of this plant are yellow. At the end of each tree branch there is a semi-circular crown (curved). The shape of the seed is also similar to the Fenugreek seed. The seeds are also yellow.

The most significant points above by Ibn Sina which refers to *Melilotus officinalis* (yellow melilot) plant are yellow flowers and leaves that have similar shape as the fenugreek leaves (see Figure 1). This is because the plants of the genus *Melilotus* (melilot) have in fact the characteristics which are almost similar with the plants of the genus *Trigonella* (fenugreek). Additionally, the genus *Melilotus* and *Trigonella* belong to the same family which is *Fabaceae* (pea family).

Meanwhile, in *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb*, Ibn Sina also mentioned that there is another species of plant إكليل الملك, a white species which refers to *Melilotus alba* (white melilot). However, as for this species, not one dictionary compiler or book author of medicinal plants who has named this species as إكليل الملك. Instead, it was named حندقوق أبيض. Therefore, the term إكليل الملك in the context of medicinal plants nowadays is only referring to two plant species, namely *Fritillaria imperialis* and *Melilotus officinalis*.

Both of the translations made on this إكليل الملك plant, if viewed in terms of botanical classification are of two different genus. This is because the *crown imperial* is a plant species of the genus *Fritillaria*, while the *king's clover* is from the genus *Melilotus*. This difference was the reason why translators were confused in choosing the most accurate translation between the two. In order to mitigate this problem, the translators were suggested to use two different translations for both of the English translations.

In this case, the author proposed that *imperial crown* to be translated as *mahkota raja* in Malay, while *king's clover* to be translated as *bunga raja* or *melilot kuning* to indicate that these plants are two plant species of two different plant genus, as in the following Table 1:

TABLE 1: Translations of the two different species of إكليل الملك.

إكليل الملك		
	First species	Second species
Malay	Mahkota raja	Bunga raja, melilot kuning
English	Crown imperial	King's clover
Scientific name	<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>

The following Figure 1 shows the images of both of the plants mentioned.

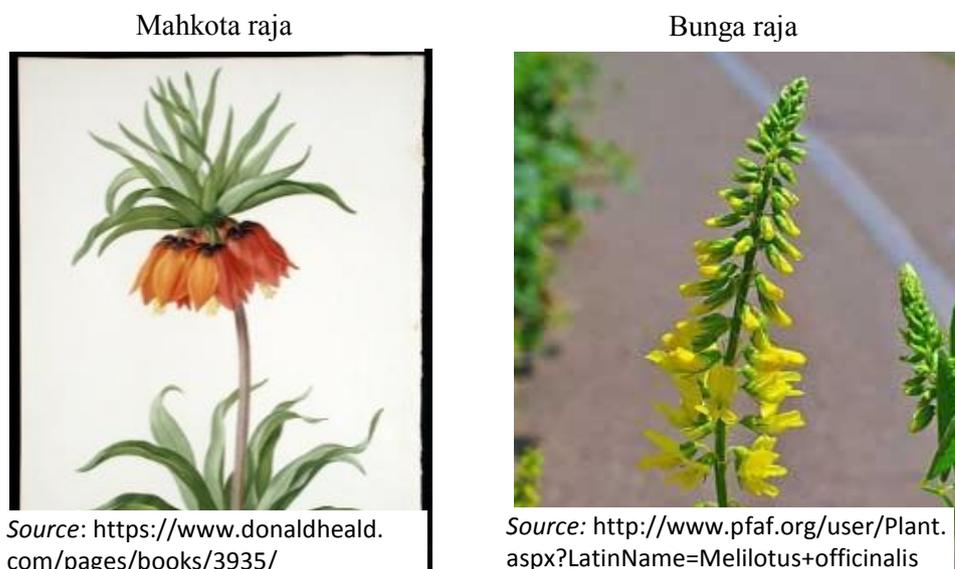


Figure 1

Left: Mahkota raja plant with reddish brown flowers.

Right: Bunga raja plant with yellow flowers.

THE SECOND CONFLICT

ONE PLANT NAME REFERRING TO TWO DIFFERENT PLANTS FROM TWO DIFFERENT PLACES

Sometimes, Arabic-Malay translators of medicinal plants would experience a situation where one plant name is referring to two different plants from two different places. An example of this second conflict can be seen in the translations of the plant الإجاص . According to *al-Mu'jam al-Wasit* dictionary (Ibrahim Anis etc., 1972: 1/7):

الإجاص شجر من الفصيلة الوردية ثمره حلو لذيذ يطلق في سورية وفلسطين وسيناء على الكمثرى وشجرها وكان يطلق في مصر على البرقوق وشجره

“Ijjas” is a plant from the Rosaceae family. The fruit is sweet and delicious. This plant refers to the pear tree and fruit by the Syrians, Palestinians, and the people of Peninsula Sinai. However, to the Egyptians, this plant (at some point in the past) refers to the plum tree and fruit.

According to *Chihabi's Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology* (Ahmad Sh. Al-Khatib, 1978: 581), the word برقوق is similar with the word الإجاص refers to plants of the genus *Prunus* commonly referred to as *plum*. This point describes that the plant الإجاص could refer to two plant species of two different genus. This is because *pear* (*Pirus communis*) belongs to the genus *Pirus*, while *plum* (*Prunus domestica*) belongs to the genus *Prunus*.

The word الإجاص which refers to genus *Prunus* (plum) is clearly stated in the *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* book. According to Ibn Sina (1994: 1/457 - 458), some of the plum species are the Armenian plum (apricot – *Prunus armeniaca*), Besti plum, Damascus plum (damson – *Prunus insititia*), black plum, yellow plum, red plum, white grey plum, and wild plum.

Therefore, translators need to be careful when translating the word الإجاص as it is a concern that it might not be translated accurately as the original author's. In this case, the word الإجاص included in medical and plants books written in the past are most likely to refer to the plum fruit and tree or any species under the genus *Prunus*, while the word الإجاص used today may refer to the pear fruit and tree. Figure 2 below shows the images of a plum and pear.

Plum fruit



Source:
<http://farmties.com/products/fruits/plum>

Pear fruit



Source:
<http://farmties.com/products/fruits/pear>

THE THIRD CONFLICT

ONE PLANT NAME REFERRING TO DIFFERENT PLANTS DUE TO DIFFERENT TIME PERIOD

Arabic-Malay medicinal plants translators also sometimes come across a plant name in Arabic that refers to a particular plant at a certain time or age in the past, but the name of the plant has been applied to the name of another plant at present days. In this case, translators may find two translations that are not synonymous for that particular plant in a dictionary or find two dictionaries translating the name of the plant with two different plant names. This situation will certainly cause confusion to the translators.

An example of the third conflict can be seen in the Arabic of شيلم plant. In *Al-Mawrid, A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary*, the dictionary compiler Dr. Rohi Baalbaki (2003: 682) listed two matches for the word شيلم, namely *rye* and *darnel* despite the two plants are not synonymous. In *Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences*, Adwar Ghalib (1965: 2/919) translated the word شيلم into *common rye* in English, while the *al-Mu'jam al-Wasit* dictionary (Ibrahim Anis etc., 1972: 1/492) listed زوان as a match for the word شيلم which refers to *darnel* plant in English.

This situation could certainly cause confusion to the Arabic-Malay translators of medicinal plant names in picking the most accurate translation between *rye* and *darnel* for the word شيلم. To deal with this issue, Ahmad Sh. Al-Khatib (1978: 626) in *Chihabi's Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology* explained that the word شيلم found in the previous dictionaries refers to *darnel* tree. In this case, the word شيلم is synonymous with the word زوان. However, since the past century, the word شيلم has been used to refer to the *rye* plant, which makes it synonymous with the word سلت. The following Figure 3 shows the images of *rye* and *darnel* plants:

Figure 2

Darnel



Source:
<http://luirig.altervista.org/pics/display.php?pic=242104>

Rye



Source:
<http://luirig.altervista.org/pics/display.php>

Figure 3

Another example of this third conflict can be seen in the matching for the Arabic word سلجم (or تلجم). In *Al-Mawrid, A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary*, Rohi Baalbaki (2003: 639) gave two non-synonymous matches for the word سلجم, namely *colza* (*sawi bunga*) and *turnip*. In *Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences*, Adwar Ghalib (1965: 2/800) translated the word سلجم into *colza* in English, while *al-Mu'jam al-Wasit* (Ibrahim Anis etc., 1972: 1/441) gave لفت as a match for سلجم which refers to *turnip*.

Due to that, there is a confusion in translating سلجم, whether it should be translated into *turnip* or *sawi bunga*. To settle this issue, Ahmad Sh. Al-Khatib (1978: 153) in *Chihabi's Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology* explained that the word سلجم found in the old plant dictionaries refers to the *turnip* tree. However, since the last century, the word سلجم has been used to refer to *colza* or *sawi bunga* in Malay. The following Table 2 shows the differences in meanings of the plants شيلم and سلجم based on time period, which is between the old meaning and the new meaning.

TABLE 2: The differences in the old and the new meaning of the plants شليم and سلجم .

	شليم		سلجم	
	Old meaning	New meaning	Old meaning	New meaning
Malay	Darnel	Rai	Turnip	Sawi bunga
English	Darnel	Rye	Turnip	Colza, rape
Synonym	زوان	سلت	لفت	-

Therefore, Arabic-Malay medicinal plants translators should always be aware of the period of time for which a book, dictionary, or article relating to medical plants is written. If the book, dictionary, or article was written in the previous times, it is likely that the word سلجم refers to *turnip*. On the other hand, if the book, dictionary, or article was written in the present time, it is most likely that the word سلجم refers to *sawi bunga*. The following Figure 4 shows the images of the mentioned *turnip* and *sawi bunga*.

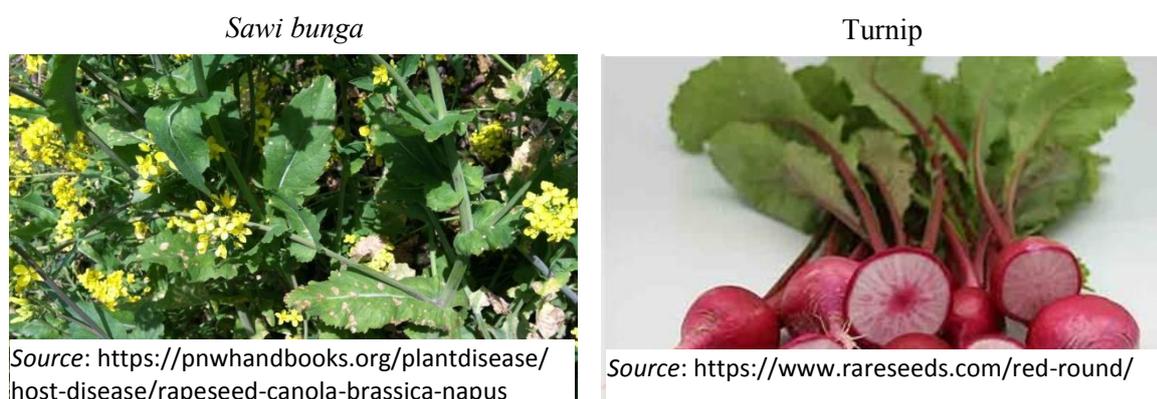


Figure 4

THE FOURTH CONFLICT ONE PLANT NAME THAT REFERS TO VARIOUS OF DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES AND GENUS

Based on the author's experience of translating the name of medicinal plants in *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb*, this fourth conflict is the most often found by the author. This happens when a single name of a medicinal plant in Arabic is given multiple matches in English and scientific name in the sources of reference either dictionaries, books, or the Internet. These matches are not synonymous, but refer to various plant species from different plant genus.

The قاتل الكلب plant, which means "pembunuh anjing", is matched with *dog's bane* in English with its scientific name *Apocynum* by *Chihabi's Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology* (Ahmad Sh. Al-Khatib, 1978: 207). Similar match were also given by Laleh Bakhtiar when translating the *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* book in English (Avicenna, 2012: 371).

However, in *Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences*, Adwar Ghalib (1965: 2/833) translated قاتل الكلب into *Colchicum autumnale*, which is synonymous with سورنجان الخريف, while the Department of Islamic Studies, Hamdard University (Avicenna, 1998: 356) translated قاتل الكلب into *nux vomica (Strychnos nux-vomica)*¹, which is a synonym to جوز القيء. The translation made by the Department of Islamic Studies, Hamdard University is similar to the statement made by the editor of *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb*, Sa'id al-Lahham (Ibn Sina, 1994: 1/825 & 904).

Thus, there are three different plants of three different genus for قاتل الكلب in Arabic. The following Table 3 shows three different translations aforementioned.

TABLE 3: The translations for قاتل الكلب plant.

No.	Malay	English	Scientific name
1.		Dog's bane	<i>Apocynum</i>
2.	Pembunuh anjing	Autumn crocus	<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>
3.		Nux vomica	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i>

The differences in translation of plant names occur because the plants involved have similarities in terms of treatment and response of the body to the plants. According to the book *The Complete Illustrated Encyclopedia of Wild Flowers & Flora of the World* (Martin Walters and Michael Lavelle, 2012: 216 & 320) and *Encyclopedia of Tropical Plants* (Ahmed Fayaz, 2011: 584), all three are considered as toxic which can endanger the lives of humans and animals. In *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* (Ibn Sina, 1994:

1/825), Ibn Sina explained that a consumption of قاتل الكلب plant may cause a person to experience bloody nose and bloody cough, and can also cause quick death to a dog.

In the case of the translation of the Arabic-Malay medicinal plant names for this fourth conflict, translating قاتل الكلب as *pembunuh anjing* (dog killer) alone is not enough. This is because the plant may refer to different species of plants. Therefore, in addition to translating the plant قاتل الكلب as *pembunuh anjing*, translators should also provide an English and scientific name for the plant. In this case, translators need to choose the translation that is thought to be the most accurate based on what the author intends.

For example, when translating the قاتل الكلب plant in *al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* by Ibn Sina, translators could choose *nux vomica* as a match for the plant based on the symptoms described by Ibn Sina, which could cause bloody nose and bloody cough. However, at the same time translators are also advised to make a footnote stating that the قاتل الكلب plant is also sometimes translated into *dog's bane* and *autumn crocus*. Figure 5 below shows the images of the three plants mentioned.



Figure 5
All three of the above plants were claimed as "pembunuh anjing" plant.



Source:
http://www.thismia.com/A/Apocynum_androsaemifolium.html

Source:
<http://www.tipdisease.com/2015/04/autumn-crocus-colchicum-autumnale.html>

Source:
<https://www.ethnoplants.com/gb/african-plants-seeds/113-strychnos-nux-vomica-strychnine-tree->

Apart from قاتل الكلب, the Arabic medicinal plant that also has various versions of translation is رجل الغراب which means "kaki gagak" or crowfoot in English. According to the *Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences* book, (Adwar Ghalib, 1965: 1/472-474) and *Chihabi's Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology* (Ahmad Sh. Al-Khatib, 1978: 596), plants that are related with *crowfoot* in English are plant species of the genus *Ranunculus*. Thus, the رجل الغراب plant in this context is synonymous with the حوذان plant. Among the species of plants under this genus are *Ranunculus acris* (tall crowfoot), *Ranunculus aquatilis* (water crowfoot), *Ranunculus asiaticus* (Asiatic crowfoot), *Ranunculus repens* (creeping crowfoot), and *Ranunculus arvensis* (corn crowfoot).

Meanwhile, Laleh Bakhtiar (Avicenna, 2012: 326) translated رجل الغراب into *cranesbill* in English making it synonymous with غرنوق plant. The scientific name for *cranesbill* is *Geranium*. However, there are two species of plants under the genus *Geranium* that are also commonly known as *crowfoot* in English (other than *cranesbill*), namely *Geranium cicutarium* and *Geranium robertianum*. According to wikipedia.org website (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crow_foot, 30/1/2018), both plant genus *Ranunculus* and *Geranium* are included in the list of plants claimed as *crowfoot* which means "kaki gagak".

However, the Department of Islamic Studies, Hamdard University (Avicenna, 1998: 225) gave a scientific name of *Ammi majus* to the plant رجل الغراب claiming that *Ammi majus* refers to *crowfoot* in English. This makes the plant رجل الغراب synonymous with the plant خلة كبيرة. The matching made by the Department of Islamic Studies, Hamdard University is quite strange as *Ammi majus* is typically matched with *bishop's weed* in English.

In the *Mu'jam Asma' al-Nabatat* dictionary, Mahmud Mustafa (1966: 62) gave the scientific name *Seseli verticellatum* (a synonym for *Ammoides pusilla*) for the plant رجل الغراب. In English, *Ammoides pusilla* is known as *cerfolium*. Meanwhile, in the book *Asrar al-Syifa' bi al-Tabi'at* by Huyam Rizq and Ma'sumah Husin (2016: 12), the plant رجل الغراب is given a matching scientific name *Senecio glaucus*, or *jaffa groundsel* in English. Therefore, there are at least five different plant genus associated with the plant رجل الغراب, as shown in Table 4 below.

TABLE 4: The translations for رجل الغراب plant.

No.	Malay	English	Scientific name
1.	Kaki gagak	Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus</i>

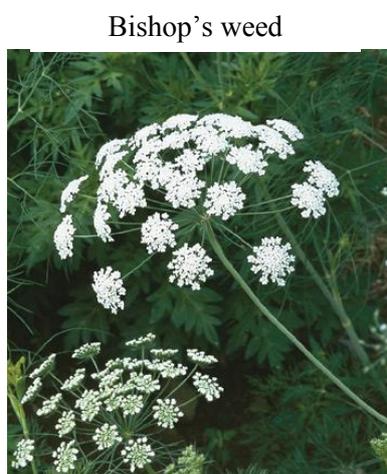
2.	Crenesbill	<i>Geranium</i>
3.	Bishop's weed	<i>Ammi majus</i>
4.	Cerfolium	<i>Ammoides pusilla</i>
5.	Jaffa groundsel	<i>Senecio glaucus</i>

The reason behind the existence of so many different matches for this رجل الغراب plant is unknown. However, based on the image of the plant in Figure 6, the shape of رجل الغراب or the shape of a part of the plant component that resembles a "crow's foot" is believed to be the source of the naming of this plant as رجل الغراب. As was the case with the translation of the قبائل الكلب plant, translation of the رجل الغراب plant as *kaki gagak* in Malay is certainly not enough as the plant may refer to different species of plants. Therefore, translators are advised to examine the features of the plant as stated by the author of the translated book or article.

In this circumstances, if the author states that the رجل الغراب plant is poisonous, it is likely that the plant species implied is *Senecio glaucus*. Therefore, the translation is *pokok kaki gagak (jaffa groundsel – Senecio glaucus)*. Similarly, if the رجل الغراب plant is said to grow in watery area, it is likely that the species meant is *Ranunculus aquatilis*. The translation is *kaki gagak air (water crowfoot – Ranunculus aquatilis)*. However, if there is no convincing explanation given by the author, translators of Arabic-Malay medicinal plant names may choose any of the previous species that they believe to be the one while making footnotes that there are several other plant species that are claimed as رجل الغراب. The following Figure 6 is the images of the five plants mentioned.

Figure 6

All five of the above plants were claimed as "kaki gagak" plant.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Translating the names of medicinal plants from Arabic to Malay is actually not as easy as translating the Arabic terms we normally find in Arabic books and newspapers. If referring to a credible dictionary is sufficient for a translator to translate the terms commonly found in an Arabic newspaper, it is the opposite for the translator of Arabic-Malay medicinal plant names. This is because Arabic-Malay medicinal plant names translators need more than merely one dictionary, in fact several dictionaries are needed to make sure the translations are really accurate with the identity of the plants.

This situation occurs because a single name in Arabic may sometimes refer to two or more plants due to the difference in the given definition of a plant, geographical difference that results in the different names of a plant, the difference in the period of time between the old meaning and the new meaning of a plant, and the difference in species and genus of a plant name in Arabic.

The truth is, the conflicts in translation of plant names from Arabic to Malay is not limited to the four conflicts listed in this article. In fact, there are too many kinds of conflict to be listed. However, some of these conflicts overlap each other. Therefore, the four conflicts listed in this article will be sufficient with the hope that there will be more researchers in medicinal plants in Arabic that will add to the knowledge in this rarely explored field of study. This type of study is not only crucial for identifying the accuracy in the translation of plant names from Arabic to Malay, but also at the same time contribute to the development of Arabic-Malay translation which is still new in this country.

Taking into account the difficulties experienced by the translators of Arabic-Malay medicinal plant names, the author suggested that an international body to be established to coordinate and standardise the naming of plants, especially medicinal plants in all major languages of the world, including the Malay language. This standardisation is important to avoid confusion and error in providing accurate and appropriate matches for plants from foreign languages to the Malay language. In this regard, the efforts being undertaken by the wikipedia.org website operator in listing medicinal plants in various languages and scientific names is praiseworthy and should be worked on comprehensively in all languages, including the Malay language.

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Note :

ⁱ In the context of Malaysia, a plant which is almost similar with *nux vomica* is "pokok akar ipoh". The scientific name for "pokok akar ipoh" is *Strychnos ignatii* or *Strychnos ovalifolia*.