



HALOTHERAPY: FROM ETHNOSCIENCE TO SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS

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Abstract

This article presents the use of salt water springs in the Moldavian Oriental sub-Carpathians for treating certain diseases, based on archaeological discoveries and ethnographical surveys, correlated with known facts from the literature in the field. Nevertheless, what differentiates it from other similar area in Europe is the intense, unexpected continuity of traditional, nonindustrial water supplying coming from salt springs. Among the uses of salt water and halite in the area, they are mentioned numerous traditional halotherapeutic practices. The Greek, Latin and current halotherapeutic practices in the East of Romania are evidence of an authentic ethnosciences acquired by human communities with salt outcrops and salt springs. The analysis of these practices demonstrates their scientific validity from the current biochemical and biophysical perspective (NaCl aerosols and of NaCl nanodispersion). Parts of these practices are taken over by a series of recent halotherapeutic proceedings, with reliable scientific and technological bases.

Key words: ethnosciences, Greek and Latin texts, halite, halotherapy, salt springs

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