

Mission in Mali by Dr. Marinella De Leo, University of Pisa, within the Baobab Project.

In the frame of the realization of the project "*The fruit of Baobab as a source of nutrients and bioactive molecules*", funded by the Tuscany Region and coordinated by the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Pisa, in collaboration with the Malian NGO *Aidemet* and the Department Traditional Medicine of Bamako, a



Photo n° 1 : Dr M. De Leo and Prof R. Sanogo

working and exchange visit by Dr Marinella De Leo of Faculty of Pharmacy of Pisa University was held in Mali from 19th to 26th February 2018. The objectives of the visit were: (i) to contact h the research groups of the DMT, and of Aidemet NGO; (ii) to carry out field visits and training and exchange seminars, and (iii) to realize quality control of Baobab fruit pulp flour, from eleven different geographic areas of Mali, purchased in Bamako district markets. Quality control, which was carried out by the team of the phytochemical laboratory of DMT, included, among others, macroscopy, microscopy, organoleptic characteristics, water and ash content, yields of the

various extractions, and the characterization of the main chemical groups by tube coloured reactions, and thin layer chromatography. The visit was also an opportunity to deepen the discussion on the next steps of the project and to start reflecting on the modalities and objectives

of the upcoming mission of the managers of the DMT, and of *Aidemet* Ong in Pisa. Monday, February 26th, 2018 in the Conference Room of the DMT, Dr. Marinella De Leo gave a lecture on "*Quality control and chemical characterization of plant extracts by liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (LC-MS)*". The public, numerous and attentive, consisted of the project partners, and researchers, assistants, doctoral students, trainees and technicians of



Photo n° 2 : Group Photo at DMT

the DMT and of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Bamako. At the end of the mission, Dr. Marinella De Leo said: "*Words are not enough to thank you for everything you have done this week. Your welcome, your hospitality, your affection have made this sole experience in terms of professional and human context. My best wishes to the whole group of DMT with whom I have shared a marvellous scientific experience*". Dr. De Leo brought in Pisa the baobab flour samples, for further analyzes.

Bamako, March 2018

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