Herbal tea could help beat breast cancer - research

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An extract commonly found in herbal tea can stop the spread of breast cancer, researchers have found.

The ingredient comes from a plant called fagonia cretica, also known as Virgon's mantlem, *Medical Daily* reported. It is traditionally used in Pakistan to help treat battle breast cancer but was dismissed as folklore.

However, researchers from Aston University and Russells Hall Hospital in the UK found the plant extract killed cancerous breast tissue without destroying healthy cells. They now want to work work out what component fights the cancer and assess if it's as affective in humans as it is in the lab.

The plant is found in dry areas of Pakistan, India, Africa and Europe.

Over 2,600 New Zealand women and just over 20 men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

- HERALD ONLINE

Fagonia cretica

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Fagonia cretica
Bright sunlight: Flower, stems, and leaves
Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Zygophyllales
Family:	Zygophyllaceae
Genus:	*Fagonia*
Species:	**F. cretica**

Binomial name

Fagonia cretica
L.

Fagonia cretica (**Manto de la Virgen** in Spanish, **Mantle of the Virgin**) is a species of plant in the Zygophyllaceae, the Caltrop family, specifically the *fagonbushes*. It is found in Alicante Province, Spain and the Balearic Islands.

The Manto de la Virgen is a plant of rocky coastlines, especially on Cabrera, Formentera, Ibiza, and Majorca of the islands. It is a creeping plant and has star-shaped, 5-narrow petal, violet to light violet flowers.

The plant has been a subject of interest due to its potential ability to cause remissions in Breast cancer. It is used as a local herbal remedy by Pakistani women where the leaves are infused into a tea locally called **Dramah**.