

## Acknowledgments

The present collection of 8 essays stems from exchanges started at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society (HSS) at Utrecht in July 2019. Together with Alain Touwaide and the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions I co-organized a panel entitled “Herbs, Plants, and Vegetal Bodies: Botanical Knowledge in Medical, Naturalistic, and Philosophical Contexts.” The lovely encounters and rich discussions we had at that time furthered some serious discussion on the topic of plants in the pre-modern period. As we started planning to publish the contributions in a volume, Alain Touwaide offered to consider publication in the series *Medical Traditions* and graciously invited me to be taken the lead of this possible publication. A few months after the meeting the world changed: the pandemic broke out and everything took a halt. The project of the volume slowed down and took a different shape: whereas some authors readily accepted to take part in this programme, some had other opportunities to have their research published sooner. From the discussion in Utrecht, the volume developed into presentations in the seminar series “Plants in Early Modern Knowledge: History, Philosophy, and Medicine” I have coordinated at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and History and Philosophy Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, in addition to several informal exchanges either online or in person in Venice, Rome, Wolfenbüttel, Bloomington, Chicago, Ames, and Leiden. In spite of these changes, the original aim and meaning of the Utrecht meeting remained substantially identical.

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