

# Is anti-ageing shrub Highland Oystercatcher

For centuries, the aromatic qualities of bog myrtle, a hardy shrub of the peaty, windswept west Highland wilderness, has been known to man and beast.

Now, scientists have discovered that this plant may be even more remarkable, and plans are well-developed to try and convince crofters, in remote parts of the Highland countryside, that bog myrtle could be a new 'cash crop', capable of injecting millions of pounds into the Scottish economy.

Local birdwatcher, Stuart Gibson comments: 'Having previously come across an Oystercatcher's nest, on a roadside knoll, near the shore of Loch Spelve, Isle of Mull, I was intrigued that the sitting bird had adorned 'her' nest with the stems of this plant, which was growing freely nearby.

'Aware of the beautiful aroma given off by the leaves of this plant when brushed against, and its possibilities as a midge repellent, I jokingly suggested that Mull's Oystercatchers may be benefiting from the delights of 'aromatherapy for birds.'

However, it seems that the oil found in these self-same leaves contains properties which can slow down the ageing process (in humans, at least!), by reducing tell-tale facial wrinkles (crow's feet, no doubt).

A well-known High Street chemist has

