

## Project Update: November 2009

The project activities during October were:

- 1) Maintenance of the biodiversity garden: irrigation, trimming of plants as preparation for the winter season and spreading soil.
- 2) The hall of the natural museum was painted from outside for protection of botanical preserved specimens from rain water and moisture.
- 3) The achievements of the Rufford-funded project were presented at a botanical gardens seminar held in Granada, Spain: focus was on establishing a biodiversity garden and community participation in seed collection for propagation and conservation at the natural museum. Dr Sawalha, as Assistant Professor at Al-Quds University, was invited to give a presentation on conservation of natural heritage in Palestine through botanic gardens.
- 4) The following native Palestinian plants were introduced: *Dittrichia viscosa* and *Retama raetam* to the garden; ripened red fruits with seeds of *Pistacia palaestina* were collected from the wild for conservation in the natural museum.



Left: *Dittrichia viscosa*. Right: *Retama raetam*.



Ripened red fruits with seeds of *Pistacia palaestina* were collected from the wild for conservation in the natural museum.