In one aspect, there is provided an extract of aerial part(s) of oats harvested before ear emergence characterized by 2 to 15% of flavonoids, 0.2 to 2% of avenacosides A and B and comprising less than 1 ppm of proteins.

In another aspect, there is provided a method for preparing an extract of aerial part(s) of oats harvested before ear emergence as defined above characterized by the following steps: extraction in an organic solvent selected from the group formed by acetone, methylethylketone, methylisobutylketone, ethyl acetate, a C_1-C_4 alcohol and a mixture in any miscible proportion of these solvents, and centrifugation or filtration.

In yet another aspect, there is provided an extract of aerial part(s) of oats, capable of being obtained by the method as defined above.

In still another aspect, there is provided a dermatological composition comprising as an active ingredient an extract of aerial part(s) of oats harvested before ear emergence comprising 2 to 15% of flavonoids and 0.2 to 2% of avenacosides A and B or an extract as defined above and one or more dermatologically acceptable excipients.

In yet another aspect, there is provided a cosmetic composition comprising an extract of aerial part(s) of oats harvested before ear emergence comprising 2 to 15% of flavonoids and 0.2 to 2% of avenacosides A and B or an extract as defined above, and one or more cosmetically acceptable excipients.

In yet another aspect, there is provided an extract of aerial part(s) of oats harvested before ear emergence comprising 2 to 15% of flavonoids and 0.2 to 2% of avenacosides A and B or an extract as defined above for use as a drug.

In a further aspect, there is provided the use of an extract as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory dermatoses.

In another aspect, there is provided the use of an extract as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of acne.

In still another aspect, there is provided the use of an extract as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of skin ageing.

In still another aspect, there is provided the use of an extract as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of rosacea.

In yet another aspect, there is provided the use of an extract as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of reactive skins.

Unexpectedly and surprisingly, the inventors have shown new ways of adding value to an extract of aerial parts of oats in therapeutic and cosmetic/dermatology. Advantageously, said extract has immunomodulating and anti-inflammatory properties useful in the treatment of atopic dermatitis. The extract according to the present invention has also shown good capacities for treating acne and skin ageing.

The object of the present invention is thus an extract of aerial part(s) of oats, excluding grains, characterized by 2-15% of flavonoids and 0.2-2% of avenacosides A and B.

By aerial parts of oats, is meant in the sense of the present invention any portion of the oat plant located above the ground, excluding the grains.

Preferably, the aerial parts of oats comprise the leaves and/or stems and/or spikelets and /or flowers.

The obtained oat extract is characterized by its content of flavonoids and of saponins of interest. The latter are analyzed by high pressure liquid chromatography, by two different methods suitable for each type of compounds.

The contents of these different molecules vary depending on the extraction conditions. The main flavonoids are isovitexin-2''-O-arabinopyranoside and isoorientin-2''-O-arabinopyranoside. The avenacosides A and B are the main saponins. These are bisdesmosidic steroid saponins.

Advantageously, the extract according to the invention comprises a proportion of 5-10% of the main flavonoids: isovitexin-2''-O-arabinopyranoside and isoorientin-2''-O-arabinopyranoside.

Advantageously, the extract according to the invention is an extract obtained in an organic solvent.

Advantageously, the extract according to the invention comprises less than 1 ppm of proteins, preferentially less than 0.5 ppm and still more preferentially less than 0.3 ppm of proteins.

Advantageously, the extract according to the invention is an extract of aerial parts of oats harvested before ear emergence.