

Book Review

Advances in Natural Products: Importance in Health and Economy, Edited by Zaheer Ahmed and Ahsana Dar, Daya Publishing House, Delhi- 110 035, India, 2008, Hardbound, ISBN: 10-81-7035-530-3; ISBN: 13 978-81-7035-530-4; Price: \$27.00, Pages: 250

Natural products, including plants, animals and minerals have been the basis of treatment of human diseases and have been exploited for human use for thousands of years. Plants used in traditional medicine have provided lead references to encourage further clinical and pharmacological studies. By utilizing modern techniques many biologically active constituents from natural sources have been isolated and characterized.

The developing world is performing extensive work in identifying enormous natural resources which can be exploited to produce herbal medicines for the treatment of deadly ailments. There has been a renewed interest in natural product research throughout the world. India being a reservoir of biodiversity and natural resources has great scope to work on natural molecules. The Non-Aligned and other countries are carrying out technical and scientific cooperation programmes of mutual benefit.

The publication contains chapters on the recent developments in natural products research related fields through a collection of 25 selected papers discussed during the International Workshop on Natural products, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals for the benefit of mankind held in Karachi, Pakistan, during 10-19 February, 2006.

The papers have been classified in three major parts, viz. scientific studies on medicinal herbs, approaches towards the development of useful products from natural products and status of herbal medicines and botanical in different countries. Detailed papers have been included in respective parts as separate chapters. Some interesting ones are: Investigation and Development of New Medicines from the Biodiversity: An Urgent Necessity in Developing Countries, Role of a Poly Herbal Formulation in the Prevention and Management of Coronary Heart Disease, Importance of Ethnobotany in Nature-based Drug Discovery, Enhancing Domestic Drug Production Capacity in Developing Countries: Approaches, Prospects and Constraints, etc.

The material presented herein would surely serve as a valuable reference material for the professionals and the persons who are actively involved in research and application of natural products as drugs, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals. The hardbound, attractive cover and good printing quality has made this book a handy reference book for further research

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