

Book review

Herbal Drugs: Quality & Chemistry by D.D. Joshi, Studium Press LLC, Texas USA, ISBN: 1-933699-88-4, Year, 2011, Pages: i-xii + 330, Binding: Hard, Language: English.

The activities shown by various plant parts vary as per the presence of amount of particular phytochemical, edaphic, climatic and seasonal factors. Quality of the collected raw material also contributes to high, low or medium activity. Seeing the growing market of crude drugs, there is high demand of standardized herbal drugs in the global market. The standardization of medicinal plants explains the potential of the drug, food value, nutrients, etc. therefore, standardization starting from procurement of quality medicinal plants, analysis of raw materials for authentication, foreign matter, heavy metal detection, etc. is essential especially for plant materials collected from fields. Application of latest analytical technologies to explain the therapeutic value of herbal medicines is also to be emphasized.

This book is divided in to four sections: section 1 deals with the utilization of plant species and traditional knowledge, as both are important in the herbal medicine trade. So description of Arabian, Egyptian, Chinese and Indian civilizations connected with herbal and their quality for utilization, in brief have been described. Section 2 describes the chemistry of herbals which may contain thousands of different compounds. Art and techniques for generation of chemical finger prints as evidence for claims made with herbals and its utility for regulatory approval have been described, with latest updates. Section 3 includes utilization of herbals e.g. as drug and food supplement both together, adaptogenic, cardio vascular, immuno-enhancer, nervine tonic, cosmeceuticals, aphrodisiac and antioxidants. The fourth section of this book describes the various techniques used to produce the high value active ingredients as pure phytochemical, standardized herbal extract, from the various parts of plants. Criteria for the selection of herb, analysis for active principles, extraction and purification, process control, finger print development and characterization of the finished product have been focused with microbial content, heavy metals and pesticide residues.

The book is recommended as a guide for the selection of herb from suitable source, using validated analytical method and manufacturing process in the field of standardized herbal extracts and pure phytochemicals. The book will be helpful in selecting standard norms and practices, to develop globally acceptable quality of herbals for cure and quality life with defined constituents. The quality of the paper and printing are good to handle this handy monograph.

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