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Medicinal Plants (Importance and Uses)

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Introduction

The term of medicinal plants include a various types of plants used in herbalism and some of these plants have a medicinal activities. These medicinal plants consider as a rich resources of ingredients which can be used in drug development and synthesis. Besides that these plants play a critical role in the development of human cultures around the whole world.

Moreover, some plants consider as important source of nutrition and as a result of that these plants recommended for their therapeutic values. These plants include ginger, green tea, walnuts and some others plants. Other plants their derivatives consider as important source for active ingredients which are used in aspirin and toothpaste.

Alternative Medicine

These days the term "Alternative Medicine" became very common in western culture, it focus on the idea of using the plants for medicinal purpose. But the current belief that medicines which come in capsules or pills are the only medicines that we can trust and use. Even so most of these pills and capsules we take and use during our daily life came from plants. Medicinal plants frequently used as raw materials for extraction of active ingredients which used in the synthesis of different drugs. Like in case of laxatives, blood thinners, antibiotics and anti-malaria medications, contain ingredients from plants. Moreover the active ingredients of Taxol, vincristine, and morphine isolated from foxglove, periwinkle, yew, and opium poppy, respectively.

Future of Medicinal Plants

Medicinal plants have a promising future because there are about half million plants around the world, and most of them their medical activities have not investigate yet, and their medical activities could be decisive in the treatment of present or future studies.

Characteristics of Medicinal Plants

Medicinal plants have many characteristics when used as a treatment, as follow:

- Synergic medicine- The ingredients of plants all interact simultaneously, so their uses can complement or damage others or neutralize their possible negative effects.
- Support of official medicine- In the treatment of complex cases like cancer diseases the components of the plants proved to be very effective.
- Preventive medicine- It has been proven that the component of the plants also characterize by their ability to prevent the appearance of some diseases. This will help to reduce the use of the chemical remedies which will be used when the disease is already present i.e., reduce the side effect of synthetic treatment.

Conclusion

Therefore it is a very important point for the open access journals to encourage researchers and clinicians to work hard in order to clarify the main active ingredients which can be extracted from medicinal plants. Moreover, to clarify their role in the treatment of present diseases, and how they can be used to produce or synthesis more effective drugs.

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