

DRUG ANALYSIS AND ITS ROLE IN HERBAL MEDICINE

T.J. Dennis¹

Received on 26.3.1995

The curative properties of plants from which many biological active chemicals are derived have been recognised for centuries. Despite modern development in synthetic chemistry higher plants are still an important source of medicinal and chemical compounds. About 30% of therapeutically active compounds are of plant origin and presently extracted from plants.

The importance of drug analysis and its role to ensure adequate standards of quality, efficacy and safety will be discussed in light of herbal drugs used as amoebicidal, antiinflammatory, hepatoprotective, etc.

Effectiveness, easy availability, low cost and comparatively devoid of serious toxic effect (time tested) are the responsible factors to popularise herbal remedies. Effectiveness is a very important factor, and effective drugs are always sought after. This effectiveness of drugs towards particular disease is directly related to the active constituents that are present in the herbal drugs and are responsible for cure of disease. Drug assay and drug analysis is the only way to ascertain the effectiveness of drug.

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants Garden and Herbarium, (C.C.R.A.S.), Kothrud, Pune-411029.