

Web Information

Medicinal plants : Search on Internet

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*" Knowing is not enough ; we must apply.
Willing is not enough ; we must do."*

— Goethe

The World Health Organization has compiled a list of more than 21,000 plant species supposedly used globally in medicine, of which 2000-3000 are used in South-East Asia (de Padua, et. al. (eds), 1999). Meanwhile, WHO estimated that about 74% of the 121 bio-active plant-derived drugs are presently in use worldwide.

This article is intended for busy scientists engaged in research work in the field of Medicinal Plants to help them reap the benefits of the internet without surfing too much for locating the resources.

Web Links

- **Medicinal plants and their properties**
www.world.std.com

The vegetable world comprises three main groups of plants: Superior, Intermediary and Inferior. These encompass bacteria, microscopic algae, mushrooms, ferns, bushes and trees, among others. Their identification is a task of specialists and the limit between the vegetal and animal world is not clear. To simplify matters, we consider plants those recognized as such by ordinary people.

- **SW School of Botanical Medicine**
www.swsbm.com/
- Medicinal Plants: Research, Resources, FAQs, Regional plant, Checklists Plant Constituents taken from a variety of

sources, these are the known constituents.

- **Aromatic and Medicinal Plants Index**
www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/med-aro/toc.html

This is a guide to medicinal and aromatic plants giving general information about this site, instruction for use, acknowledgments, a comment/suggestion form Aromatic and Medicinal Plants Index. A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. *Abelmoschus moschatus*. *Achillea millefolium*. *Aconite*. *Acorus calamus* etc.

- **Medicinal Plant Garden.**
www.pharm.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/yakusoen/plants

Click here to Japanese page Medicinal Plant, which is composed of the garden of specimens (ca. 1000 species), the cultivating field, and the laboratory. It is used for student practice and for research on tissue culture and phytotoxins.

- **The "Plant Image Gallery"**
www.plant-pictures.com

The "Plant Image Gallery" contains about 7000 pictures of plants native to several parts of the world. Pictures of plants from Europe, Costa Rica and Galapagos Islands were taken during botanical field trips.

Additionally, a considerable number of close-ups are among them obtained by use of a microscope. Pictures of plants native to other parts of the worlds were mainly made in botanical gardens.

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- **National Park services, United States**
www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal

A comprehensive search of known plants for medicinal chemicals is an enormous task. Of the estimated 250,000 plant species on earth, only 2% have been thoroughly screened for chemicals with potential medicinal use. Because native plant habitats are destroyed almost daily, many medicinally valuable plants will be gone before scientists can even investigate them.

- **Medicinal and Poisonous Plant Databases**

www.biologie.uni-hamburg.de/b-online/ibc99/poison/

Links to sites with substantial information on medicinal and poisonous plants, and research pertaining to each Medicinal and Poisonous Plant Databases.

- **Medicinal Plants Research Centre**

www.ncl.ac.uk/medplant/

Members of the medicinal plants research group have a strong record of scientific publications in areas including neurochemical pathology, enzyme biochemistry, phytochemistry and chemical interactions, separation chemistry, botany, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, ethnopharmacology, horticulture and agriculture, pathology, psychiatry and medicine, Ethnopharmacology, Plant cultivation, Research areas, Neurobiology Clinical trials, Publications, Enquiries.

- **World Health Organisation**

www.who.int/medicines/library/trm/medicinalplants/monographs

A series of volumes, the WHO monographs on selected medicinal plants aims to: provide scientific information on the safety, efficacy, and

quality control of widely used medicinal plants; provide models to assist Member States in developing their own monographs or formularies for these and other herbal medicines; and facilitate information exchange among Member States. WHO monographs, however, are not pharmacopoeial monographs, rather they are comprehensive scientific references for drug regulatory authorities, physicians, traditional health practitioners, pharmacists, manufacturers, research scientists and the general public.

- **Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants Used in Homeopathy - KS GOPI**

www.minimum.com/b.asp?a=medicinal-plants-gopi -

This volume is the first of ten and includes 111 plants of the 1200 key specimens that will be examined as essential to the homeopathic pharmacy. It boasts a simple but lucid style, arranged according to botanical classification. Besides identification and preparation of the mother tincture, toxicology, pharmacology, homeopathic action, duration of action, and dose are covered in just the right amount of detail (exquisitely brief is how it is described by one admirer).

- **The Bakken Garden**

www.thebakken.org/about-us/plant.html

A List of Medicinal Plants, Shrubs, and Trees, and their Historical Medical Use. Indians used this for more medicinal purposes. Pharmaceuticals are made from Echinacea plants. The content, root used in folk medicine for astringent purpose are described.

- **Plants database**

www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/D_med.html

To make it easy to search the database

for plants which fulfill a specific use, a table has been created which indexes the different plants by their medicinal uses. You can select one of the uses shown below and then do a search to find all plants with that use. More detailed on the uses is contained in the medical uses field in the main database table

- **The Medicinal Plants Sector in India:**
web.idrc.ca/en/ev-21171-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

The book reviews the medicinal plants sector in India. The Sector has traditionally occupied an important position in the socio-cultural, spiritual and medical arena of rural and tribal lives of India. In recent years, due to growing recognition of natural products and process in sustaining human and environmental health, the economic as well as environmental importance of the medicinal plant resources have increased tremendously.

- **Traditional Oriental Medicine**
www.holistic-online.com/Herbal-Med/hol_herb-intro.htm

Herbal Medicine can be broadly classified into various basic systems: Traditional Chinese Herbalism, which is part of Traditional Oriental Medicine, Ayurvedic Herbalism, which is derived from Ayurveda, and Western Herbalism, which originally came from Greece and Rome to Europe and then spread to North and South America. Chinese and Ayurvedic Herbalism have developed into highly sophisticated systems of diagnosis and treatment over the centuries. Western Herbalism is today primarily a system of folk medicine.

- **India Herbs : Resources for Alternative Medicine**

www.india-herbs.com/ayurveda.htm

The information are education,

standardization of medicines, enhancement of plants The Indian Systems of Medicine have identified 1500 medicinal plants.

- **Department of AYUSH**
www.indianmedicine.nic.in/

About 90% of medicinal plant used by the industries are collected from the wild. While over 800 species used in production by industry, less than 20 species of plants are under commercial cultivation. Over 70 % of the plant collections involve destructive harvesting because of the use of parts like roots, bark, wood, stem and the whole plant in case of herbs. This poses a definite threat to the genetic stocks and to the diversity of medicinal plants if biodiversity is not sustainably used.

- **National Medicinal Plants Board :**
<http://nmpb.nic.in/>

India has 15 Agroclimatic zones, 47000 different plant species and 15000 medicinal plants. The Indian Systems of Medicine have identified 1500 medicinal plants, of which 500 species are mostly used in the preparation of drugs. The medicinal plants contribute to cater 80% of the raw materials used in the preparation of drugs. The effectiveness of these drugs mainly depend upon the proper use and sustained availability of genuine raw materials.

- **National Botanical Research Institute**
www.nbri-lko.org

A premier plant based multidisciplinary, state-of-art national R&D Centre of CSIR undertaking research from classical taxonomy to cutting edge areas of modern biology-including both applied and basic research in the fields of biochemistry, bioinformatics, biotechnology, conservation biology, cytogenetics, environmental sciences,

ethnopharmacology, floriculture, molecular biology and genetic engineering, pharmacognosy, pharmacy, physiology, phytochemistry, plant biodiversity, plant breeding, plant wealth utilization, taxonomy, microbiology and tree biology, with the end in view of conservation and sustainable utilization of the non crop plant genetic resources of the country.

- **Ginseng**

<http://www.ginseng4less.com/>

Chinese, Korean and American ginseng are known as adaptogenic longevity

herbs. Kings and emperors have used it for energy, vitality, and as a method for slowing the aging process. People have used ginseng for over 4,000 years and many health benefits have been attributed to it. Ginseng has truly endured the test of time. In clinical tests ginseng has been scientifically proven to have therapeutic value.

- **Chinese Herbal Medicines**

<http://www.china-herbs.com/>

Effective Chinese patent medicines for Chronic Diseases are given.