

**LETTER TO EDITOR****OPEN ACCESS**

## Importance of Medicinal Plants

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Medical plants have started to consider an essential source in treating/preventing a various kind of disease (1). Each plant consists of several important ingredients that can be used in medical field, and can be involved in the development of different kind of drugs (2). A lot of undeveloped countries or even developed countries are using herbal medicine in maintain human wellbeing, personal health condition, and treating certain type of disease such as cough. These plants include Echinacea, Garlic, Ginger, Ginkgo, Ginseng, and others (1).

### 2. IMPORTANCE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

The using of plants in order to achieve a medicinal purpose is called alternative medicine (AM). AM has been used almost in all cultures particularly Asian and western culture. Unfortunately, most of people nowadays still believe that the only trusted and effective medicine is the medicine that has a dosage form (i.e. formulating in tablets, capsules, etc). Even though there are many pills or capsules are consumed daily coming originally from plants compounds such as Aspirin, Digoxin, paclitaxel, and many more. In the past, our ancient ancestors were using plants and herbs to preserve and flavor food, reduce pain, treat headache, and even prevent diseases including epidemics. The knowledge of their healing properties has been transmitted over the centuries within and among human communities. Active compounds produced during secondary metabolism are usually responsible for the biological properties of plant species used throughout the globe for various purposes, including treatment of infectious diseases (3). Currently, many studies are warned people about the risk and dangerous of pathogenic microorganisms that have become resistance to discovered antimicrobials (4). Data on the antimicrobial activity of numerous plants, so far considered empirical, have been scientifically confirmed, hence, numerous studies are needed to describe the chemical composition of these plant antimicrobials and the mechanisms involved in microbial growth inhibition, either separately or associated with conventional antimicrobials.

### 3. FUTURE OF MEDICAL PLANTS

Up to date, there are more than hundred thousand of plants globally are either undiscovered, or their medical activities are not investigated and analyzed yet. It is predicted that plants and herbs are going to play an essential role in the medical field, especially in the treatment of critical disease

such as cancer, so that their medical efficacy should be tested in the present and future studies.

### 4. CHARACTERISTICS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Medicinal plants have many characteristics when used as a treatment, as follow (5):

- Synergic medicine- Each plant has many compounds that may interact simultaneously leading to either complement or damage the functions of each other, or neutralize their possible negative effects.
- Support of official medicine- The ingredients of plants can be used along with chemical products to achieve the desired outcome.
- Preventive medicine- Some components of plants have proved to be effective in preventing or reducing the risk of certain disease (e.g. flu), and this can help in reduce the burden and cost of using chemical remedies.

### 5. CONCLUSION

Thus, it is an essential point for the open access journals to pay attention at, and encourage researchers and clinicians to do their best to investigate the main active ingredients that 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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