



Editorial

Asian Journal of Pharmacognosy

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The medicinal flora of Asia is probably the richest medicinal flora in the World and represents an almost untapped reservoir of drugs for the treatment of major human illnesses. Current development of drugs is today the responsibility of the pharmaceutical industry and big corporations, which seem to be more preoccupied by financial benefits than the well-being of people globally and especially Asians in developing countries. This is perfectly observable with increased bacterial infections, bacterial resistance, and a parallel decrease of new antibiotics launched by the pharmaceutical industries. In some remote rural settings in Asia, however some healers treat successfully bacterial infections with medicinal plants. The same is true for cancer. The teaching of medicinal plants is being slowly but surely removed from schools of pharmacy syllabus under the influence of pharmaceutical industry lobbies and as a consequence, pharmacy graduates from these so called prestigious schools are only able to dispense pills manufactured by the industry and are unable to advise patients when it comes to medicinal plants despite a huge interest from the public. Eventually pharmacists will be replaced by dispensing machines easier to control. This dangerous trend may eventually stop with the massive global health challenges coming our way including the emergence of new viral and bacterial zoonosis, resistant bacteria and health problems posed by global warming, destruction of the rainforest for palm oil, global industrial food and pollution. This third issue of the Asian Journal of Pharmacognosy presents preliminary evidence that some plants could be of value in treating diabetes, leukaemia and infections. Reports on simple but useful phytochemical analysis of medicinal plants are also available. In developing countries, few are the laboratories equipped with expensive HPLC and other expensive equipment and it is important for academes and researchers in the field of medicinal plants to rely on simple but after all good thin layer chromatography and phytochemical tests. We are also please in this third issue to publish reports from Cambodia and Thailand an Asian country endowed with hundreds of medicinal plants, some of them not fully know to the world.