

# **Review: Natural Products in Drug Discovery**

# Mr. Yogesh Wankhede<sup>1\*</sup>, Sujal Khandekar<sup>2</sup>, Tejas Somvanshi<sup>3</sup>, Avishkar Torawane<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, MET's Institute of D. Pharmacy, Bhujbal Knowledge city, Adgoan Nashik, India.

<sup>2,3,4</sup>Research Scholar, K.V. N Naik Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Nashik, India.

Received: 2024-12-10	Revised: 2024-12-20	Accepted: 2024-12-27

# ABSTRACT

Natural resources have become a major source of new medicines. Different approaches have been developed to search for new drugs based on natural products. Traditional and ethical medicine has provided information on therapeutic effects, resulting in some surprising biological discoveries in medicine Special functions such as side effects of medicines for scientists have developed new small molecules. Historically, natural compounds and their structural analogues have been an important contributor to drug therapy, especially for cancer and infectious diseases. Be that as it may, science moreover presents challenges to sedate disclosure, such as innovative boundaries to screening, separation, characterization and optimization, which contributed to a decrease in their interest by the pharmaceutical industry from the 1990s onwards.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Natural products including plants, animals and minerals have been the basis for the treatment of human diseases. <sup>[1,2]</sup> Nevertheless, ancient wisdom has been the foundation of modern medicine and remains one of the most important sources of medicine and future treatments.

The history of medicine begins almost with the existence of human civilization. Historically, most new drugs have been derived from natural products (secondary metabolites) and pharmaceutical derivatives. <sup>[1]</sup>

Before the 20th century, crude and semi-pure extracts of plants, animals, microbes and minerals represented the simplest medicines to be had to deal with human and home animal illnesses. The 20th century revolutionized the thinking inside the use of medication, as the receptor idea of drug action. The concept that the effects of drugs in the human body are mediated by using particular interactions of the drug molecule with biological macromolecules (proteins or nucleic acids in most cases) led scientists to the individual that chemicals in compounds that are extracted, in preference to a few mystical "power of life" are the factors required for the biological activity of the drug. This led to the start of a completely new era in pharmacology, as natural, isolated chemical compounds, in place of extracts, have become the standard treatments for diseases. Indeed, many bioactive compounds, responsible for the effects of crude extract drugs, and their chemical structure have into elucidated.

Classical illustrations of medicate compounds found in this way are morphine, the dynamic specialist in Opium, and digoxin, a heart stimulant starting from the bloom Digitalis lanata. The evolution in synthetic chemistry additionally caused the chemical synthesis of the various elucidated structures.<sup>[2]</sup>

On the other hand, the emphasis of R&D in the pharmaceutical industry has focused on the development of new drugs, innovative or indigenous for the synthesis of known drugs and the development of plant-derived drugs by searching for leaders in traditional medical systems. The exploitation of structural chemical databases such as a wide type of chemotypes, together with databases on the target genes and proteins, will surely facilitate the advent of new chemical entities through computational molecular for pharmacological evaluation.<sup>[3]</sup>

Recently, there has been a renewal in natural product research due to the failure of alternative drug discovery methods to deliver many lead compounds in key therapeutic areas such as immune suppression, anti-infectives, and metabolic diseases.



Natural products research explores a number of lead systems, which can be used as templates for the development of new drugs by the pharmaceutical industry. There is no doubt that natural products have been, and may be, important sources of new pharmaceutical compounds.<sup>[1]</sup>

Although traditionally natural products have played an important role in drug discovery, in the past few years most Big Pharma companies have either terminated or considerably scaled down their natural product operations. This is despite a significant number of natural product-derived drugs being ranked worldwide selling ethical drugs in the last years. The process of natural product drug discovery usually required several separation circles and structure elucidation and was thus time-consuming.

Natural products and traditional medicines are very important. Natural products and their derivatives have been recognized for many years as sources of diverse therapeutic agents and systems. Natural products have many different chemical components. Meanwhile, the utility of natural products as modulators of biological activity has also received increasing attention.<sup>[4]</sup>

Drug discovery is an intensive scientific process of finding robust and viable first candidates, which is nothing more than a continuous process from natural product testing to isolation on the other, requiring expertise and experience. However, in addition to their chemical structure diversity and their biodiversity, the development of new technologies has revolutionized the screening of natural products in discovering new drugs.<sup>[5]</sup>

The outstanding phenomenon of nature always stands as a golden mark for achieving herbal drug discovery.

# NATURAL PRODUCTS AS PHARMACOLOGICAL TOOLS:

There are many historical examples in which the natural product has not just been the medicinal product but has additionally helped reveal a unique aspect of physiology. For instance, digitalis from Foxglove showed the position of sodium-potassium-ATPase; morphine pointed the way to the receptors laid low with endogenous opioids; muscarine, nicotine and tubocurarine helped explore the exceptional types of acetylcholine receptors, and so forth. More lately, there has been interesting in systematically looking.<sup>[6]</sup>

Natural Products Drug Discovery Research and Development and Omics (Genomics Proteomics and Metabolomics/Metabolomics):

# 1. Genomics in Plant-Based Natural Products Identification and Biomarker Identification:

The quality, unique identity and reliability of the plant species from which the natural product is received and to which the therapeutic properties are ascribed is very critical for successful innovative drug discovery. The use of a different or wrong plant species will likely affect the therapeutic properties because of different compounds and portions to be observed within the species. Genomic methods are essential in organizing an accurate identity technique for plants and natural product species.<sup>[7]</sup> Genomic methods such as DNA barcoding are established techniques that rely on different sequences within short standard DNA regions (400–800 BP) for species-level identification.<sup>[8]</sup> DNA bar-coding using genomics with high accuracy which is more robust than identification methods of body shape recognition and local traditional (vernacular) names and will provide self-identification.

DNA bar-coding of natural products has been applied in biodiversity inventories and authentic action of natural products. DNA barcoding turned into used in an integrative method for the identification of plant species inclusive of Amaranthus hybridus L. And crude drugs recorded inside the Japanese pharmacopoeia the use of ITS2 or psbA-trnH series amplification. Genomic-based techniques represent an effective platform for natural products but different parts of the same plant with the same sequence may have different characteristics, clinical utility and symptoms due to different conditions under which they are being grown.

To display consistency inside the species and pharmacological molecules from natural merchandise, bio-farming can be used to ensure consistency after the traditional species are authenticated via DNA bar-coding.<sup>[9]</sup> Markers evolved from species through genomic strategies can be incorporated into DNA chips to provide an excessive-throughput tool for genotyping and also plant species authentication. Gene expression using microarray analysis is a new transcription technology that allows rapid and efficient analysis of large amounts of transcripts.<sup>[10]</sup> This type of transcriptional analysis makes it possible to analyze changes in the expression of multiple genes simultaneously.<sup>[11]</sup> It represents a powerful tool for elucidating the molecular mechanisms of biotherapeutics and the biological interactions underlying their pharmacological actions.

Besides its applications in biological discovery, genomics can also be applied to natural product targeting. Whole genome sequencing combined with transcriptomic analysis has enabled the screening of drugs or drug targets like never before. Transcription factor binding sites, protein modifications, changes in DNA structure and methylation patterns can now be analysed and measured at the genome level.



#### 2. Proteomics in Natural Product Validation and Biomarker Identification:

Complimentary to genomic and transcriptomic strategies to manage and pattern version is the usage of proteomic platforms in describing the mechanism of motion of many herbal products. Proteomic tactics for progressive drug discovery from herbal merchandise have the capability to elucidate the protein expression, protein characteristics, and metabolic and biosynthetic pathways based totally on healing consequences translating to consistency in the first-class profile of the product.<sup>[12]</sup> Approaches along with mass-spectrometry using isotope tags and dimensional electrophoresis will deliver perception into quantitative protein profiling which generates quantitative records on a scale and sensitivity comparable to what's generated on the genomic degree. Proteomics program has been efficaciously utilized in distinguishing species of Chinese home grown therapeutic sedate, Panax ginseng versus Panax quinquefolium.<sup>[13]</sup> The healing outcomes of natural products can be elucidated using proteomics and imaging techniques to successfully study the metabolism of herbal merchandise and their compounds. Proteomics is an effective way to elucidate the multi-target effects of complex herbal product arrangements in addition to the invention of a couple of compounds and fractions, characterization of natural products and ultimately a molecular diagnostic platform. <sup>[14]</sup>

For natural products to be used as tablets it's miles critical that their target proteins be diagnosed. Several strategies which include affinity chromatography have been in use to become aware of target proteins with relative fulfilment. The introduction of technologies bearing in mind target protein identity without the modification of the herbal product has ended in herbal products with extended interest. Such methods include cellular exchange analysis based on the stabilization of a target protein upon binding to its ligand, thermal proteome profiling of the pathway based on target proteins so is stable at elevated temperatures, bioinformaticsbased analysis of connectivity and drug binding responsive targeting. Due to the vast array of structures and complexities in nature, a wide range of biological functions need to be determined. This may be due to the ability to bind multiple ligands; every potential drug must be tested for side effects and this is due to off-target effects. To identify all potential target proteins, biological complexes containing potential target proteins must be thoroughly screened. One of the methods used to identify target proteins and biological activities is affinity chromatography.<sup>[15,16]</sup> This method is a pull-down method in which a natural product is immobilized to a physical solid complex.<sup>[17]</sup> Bound proteins are determined by mass spectrometry. However, abuse of natural products can lead to a decrease or loss of function. The development of novel and innovative approaches, devoid of any modification, is paramount for the success of target identification. Of late, several methods have been able to identify target proteins using label-free natural products. These new and improved techniques consider the response of natural target protein complexes to proteomic thermal treatment. Using this new approach, multiple target proteins for an individual biological product can be identified by proteomic analysis. Strategies for targeting non-labelled natural products.<sup>[18]</sup>

#### NATURE AS A SOURCE OF NEW DRUG COMPOUNDS:

Natural products play an important role in pharmaceutical research, as many drugs are natural products or derivatives. In fact, it is estimated that about 40% of all are natural products or semi-synthetic derivatives.<sup>[20]</sup>

The therapeutic, pharmacologic and pharmacological studies of these traditional medicines, which were mainly derived from plants, were the basis for the mass production of prototype drugs such as aspirin, digitoxin, morphine, quinine and pilocarpine the same.<sup>[21]</sup>

Despite competition from other drug discovery methods, natural products still provide their fair share of new therapeutics and drugs. These compounds were still important sources of new drugs, especially in the anticancer, antihypertensive, anti-infectives, immunosuppression, and neurology, and some of them since have made substantial progress toward clinical trials or to the market.

Therefore, similarly to being a proven and important supply of drug leads, natural products derived drugs also make a contribution significantly to the profitability of many organizations. Natural product studies maintain to discover a whole lot of lead structures, which can be used as templates for the development of new drugs by using the pharmaceutical industry. These approved substances, representative of a very extensive chemical variety, demonstrate the importance of compounds from natural sources in modern drug discovery efforts. <sup>[22]</sup>

In addition, natural products, containing inherently larger structural ranges than synthetic compounds, were the fundamental assets of bioactive agents and will continually play as protagonists in discovering new pills. Drug discovery from medicinal plants has specifically trusted biological activity guided isolation methods which have led to the discovery of important drugs.<sup>[23]</sup>

The place of natural products in the therapeutic arsenal was rigorously discussed and analysed. A biological substance is a chemical or substance produced by an organism found in nature that generally has a chemical or biological activity used in drug discovery and drug development. Even if this substance can be considered as such if it can be done with it at all. They are extracted from terrestrial plants, marine bacteria or microbial fermentation broth tissues. Simple extracts from each of these sources often contain new compounds that differ in composition.



Not all biologics can be synthesized completely and many biologics have very complex structures that are very difficult and expensive to produce technically. These include drugs such as penicillin, morphine and formerly paclitaxel. Such materials can only be collected from their natural source a process that can be tedious, time-consuming, and expensive as well as being potentially unsustainable for the resource. Furthermore, the number of structural analogues that can be obtained from harvesting is severely limited.

Another problem is that isolates often work differently than natural precursors that can synergize and may combine say, antimicrobial compounds with compounds that stimulate various pathways of the immune system.

Many higher plants have additional metabolites that differ in biological properties. However, pharmaceutical products are almost universally used in chemotherapeutics and have been produced by in vitro chemical synthesis. Compounds such as Taxol and vincristine were structurally complex metabolites that were difficult to synthesize in vitro, Many unnatural, synthetic drugs cause many side effects that were not recognized except as a treatment of last resort for cancer and other chronic diseases. <sup>[24]</sup>

## THE SUCCESSFUL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS IN DRUG DISCOVERY:

An integrative approach combining various discovery tools and other disciplines of integrated biology will undoubtedly provide the key to success in biochemical discovery and its execution. It can be predicted that natural products will continue to play an important role in the discovery and development of new, safer and cheaper drugs. The pharmaceutical industry needs to wake up to change its mindset in this context and redirect its resources to biologically based drug discovery programs.<sup>[25]</sup>

According to Lutz [9], natural products not only support molecular synthesis but also exhibit chemical properties that are unmatched by any synthetic compound. The main feature of natural products is their structure and great chemical diversity. In fact, about 40% of the chemical scaffolds found in natural products are absent in today's medicinal chemistry, and therefore complementary to synthetically produced molecules. Most possibly this is one of the reasons for their historical success in drug discovery, with 45% of today's bestselling drugs originating from natural products or their derivatives.

Another important advantage of natural products is that they have a biological history. Biosynthesis of natural products includes repeated interplay with modulating enzymes, and the real biological characteristic of many natural products incorporates binding to different proteins. Thus, the ability of natural products to engage with other molecules, an essential prerequisite to creating an effective drug, might be considered biologically tested. It is an unsurprising, however often not noted, reality that many natural products show off superior binding characteristics as compared with synthetics.

Moreover, organic matter has high molecular weight; There are fewer nitrogen, halogen, and sulphur atoms but more oxygen atoms and is more sterically complex, with highly bridging tetrahedral carbon atoms, rings and chiral centres.

The achievement of natural products is associated with the forces of natural product chemistry, molecular and cellular biology, synthetic and analytical chemistry, biochemistry and pharmacology to exploit the vast diversity of chemical structures and biological activities of these products.<sup>[26]</sup>

#### SCREENING AND DESIGN:

Advancement in the knowledge of molecular mechanisms, cellular biology and genomics not only increased the number of molecular goals but additionally demanded shorter drug discovery timelines. The advent of newer combinatorial strategies of synthesis and computational methods, with the incongruity of natural products to keep growing with the ever developing opposition for novel classes of medicine at a faster rate, has brought pharmaceutical industries to look towards artificial chemical libraries. Although the pharmaceutical industry appreciates the role of nature as the master architect of physics libraries and respects the science involved, they fear research in the field. However, the rethinking of fresh techniques is on the verge of gaining prominence because of the disappointing results of combinatorial chemistry and high throughput screening (HTS) in handing over robust chemical entities.

The old laborious techniques involved within the extraction and isolation had been now not able to generate the numbers that have been required to keep pace with the HTS necessities. Actinomycetes and fungi are used as screening assets with the aid of all or almost all groups that conduct natural product-primarily based drug discovery (NPDD) applications. Bacteria, flowers, and medicinal herbs come next. Some apply invertebrates and microalgae to screening. Insects are rarely exploited. But a few are searching for microbes from unusual environments. Since preliminary herbal merchandise is not often launched unaltered as a drug, unreasonable expectancies on economic funding will prevent many nations from being involved in the drug discovery method. Pharmacognosy provides the equipment to become aware of pick and method natural products destined for medicinal use. Usually,



the natural product compound has a few forms of biological pastime and that compound is called the energetic principle-this sort of structure can act as a lead compound (now not to be stressed with compounds containing the element lead). Many of these day's medicines are obtained directly from a natural supply.

The process of finding a new drug against a delegated goal for a selected disorder commonly involves HTS, where large libraries of chemical tests are examined for their capability to modify the goal.

Another important feature of HTS is to expose how selective the compounds are for the selected goal. The best is to discover a molecule if you want to intervene with most effective the chosen goal, however now not different, related goals. To this end, different screening runs can be made to see whether the "hits" in opposition to the chosen goal will intrude with different related objectives is the manner of go-screening.

## CHEMICAL DIVERSITY OF NATURAL PRODUCTS:

It is not uncommon for natural materials to have complex molecular structures, including cyclic semi-rigid scaffolds, multiple chiral centres, more than five H-bond donors, more than ten H-bond acceptors, more than five possible C-C bonds move around, and more. A large and polar surface area, molecular weight above 500. While this may lead to lower bioavailability rates and corresponding routes of drug delivery to achieve the required benefits, such complex systems may have hidden benefits, as previously estimated.

The variability of chemicals in nature is subject to biological and geographical variation, so researchers travel the world to find samples to analysed and evaluate in drug discovery studies or biological studies. They call an effort to identify these natural resources as bioprospecting.

On the other hand, some drugs are developed from a lead compound at the beginning obtained from a natural supply. This way the lead compound may be produced by total synthesis or maybe a starting point (precursor) for a semi-synthetic compound or can act as a template for a structurally unique overall artificial compound.<sup>[27]</sup>

# **ISOLATION AND PURIFICATION:**

If a lead compound (or reactive principle) contains a mixture of other compounds of natural origin, it must be isolated and purified. The ease with which the active principle is isolated and purified depends on its composition, which depends largely on the stability, and concentration of the compound. In the past, it was not possible until the development of new experimental procedures such as freeze drying and chromatography that the successful isolation and purification of penicillin and other natural products became feasible.

# IDENTIFICATION OF BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE MATERIAL:

There are two main approaches to obtaining new biologically active compounds; Random collection and experimentation, or selective application of ethnopharmacological knowledge. The former approach is based on the fact that only a fraction of global biology has ever been tested for any biological activity and on the other hand, particularly organisms living in a species-rich environment need to evolve defence and competition mechanisms to survive. Thus, the collection of plant and animal microorganisms from rich ecosystems can lead to the isolation of new biological activity. One example of the successful use of this approach is the trial of antitumor drugs, initiated by the United States National Cancer Institute in the 1960s. Cytostatic paclitaxel (Taxol) was diagnosed throughout this campaign from the Pacific yew tree Taxus brevifolia. Paclitaxel showed antitumor hobby with a previously unknown mechanism (stabilization of microtubules) and is now permitted for scientific use for the treatment of lung, breast and ovary cancers, in addition to for Kapos sarcoma.

Besides random choice, the choice of beginning cloth can be done by means of gathering know-how on the use of vegetation and other herbal products as natural drugs and thereby get an idea of capacity biological activities. It is well worth remembering that a chief a part of earth's populace nevertheless is predicated on nature-derived drugs as their handiest remedy.

# STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY AND STRUCTURE-PROPERTY RELATIONSHIPS OF NATURAL PRODUCTS:

One of the distinguishing functions of herbal merchandise is their common prevalence as suites or complexes of structurally related analogues. The biological significance of this expressed molecular diversity is uncertain, particularly while the suite contains members (often major)that appear to lack biological activity or features. Essentially, why could an organism expend the resources needed to synthesize many analogues of a molecule for which there is but a single purpose? One possible answer to this question is furnished by the "screening hypothesis", based on the proposition that biological activity is a rarity for a molecule, and if an organism



can do it may have a selective advantage if it has chemical diversity low so cost. The existence of congeners of a natural product series might therefore be the consequence of an organism's need to generate its own chemical diversity to optimize the activity of its secondary metabolites, essentially doing its own structure-activity relationship (SAR) optimization.<sup>[28]</sup>

## **FUTURE PERSPECTIVES**

The Combinatorial chemistry may have simply increased the density of the straw in which the product was hidden. Natural products must have biological activity at their locations. However, natural product research needs long and deep experience, particularly in taxonomy, which cannot be built up in one day. If this know-how is abandoned, it will never be recovered in the future. One solution would be to outsource the program, as technologically advanced biotechnology companies will play an important role in NPDD.

Biology and genomics are the guiding keywords for biological science in the 21st century. Biodiversity is becoming increasingly important in this area. Companies need to adapt to new regulations and have a clear vision of what they need for biological products as a means of innovation. On the other hand, organizations that accept titles and resources must find ways to facilitate the routine use of biological resources if they really want to participate in and benefit from drug discovery.

Everyone should understand that even though a biological resource may have great intrinsic value as a component of an ecosystem and a reservoir of genetic information, its monetary value might be minimal until a utility is discovered and developed. To realize that utility and to share in the benefits, organizations should be prepared not only to participate actively in the discovery process but also to share the financial risks.

Plant-derived natural compounds are positioned to retain their significance as a viable source for growing innovative medications and remedy techniques. The extensive range of chemical variations found in plants offers a wide selection of chemicals that have potential uses in medicine <sup>[29]</sup> As scientists find new bioactive materials and recognize the underlying mechanisms of motion found in plants, the pathway for drug development remains strong. This is mainly critical whilst researchers discover alternative and sustainable sources for medicines. The progress of investigating and cultivating plant-based materials is closely related to enhancements in genomics and metabolomics. Plant genome sequencing enables scientists to accumulate a radical understanding of the genetic pathways that are liable for the manufacturing of bioactive chemical substances.<sup>[30]</sup>

Metabolomics provides a complete revelation of the complete range of small molecules found in plant structures. These advanced techniques allow scientists to identify potential chemicals precisely, expect their functions, and adjust plant genomes to grow the synthesis of moneymaking metabolites. This methodical approach simplifies the procedure of finding new records, decreasing the need for thorough examination. While allowing the development of compounds customized for specific therapeutic characteristics. Biotechnology and synthetic biology will remain pivotal in advancing the usage of plant-derived compounds. Advancements in bioproduction, genetic engineering, and route optimization are expected to expand the range of substances that may be extracted from plants. <sup>[31]</sup>

#### THE ROLE OF PLANTS IN MODERN MEDICINE

Medicinal and aromatic plants are extraordinary assets for developing novel drugs and treating the body and mind. The management of plants, aromatherapy, crude medicinal drugs, and plenty of different remedies has emerged as popular not only in contemporary medicine but also in the home and hospital <sup>[34,35]</sup> These natural medicinal drugs and healing procedures are also powerful for preventative medicinal drugs. The prospects of medicinal and aromatic plants provide an ever-present desire for human survival. Due to the inability of opportunity drug improvement procedures to offer many chemical components in essential therapeutic applications, together with metabolic and infectious illnesses natural products remain the emphasis of pharmaceutical research. <sup>[36]</sup>

Plant-derived natural product investigation continues to provide a completely unique template for main chemical discoveries inside the biopharmaceutical industry. Natural products have been and will continue to be significant sources of novel pharmacological healing dealers. Drug metabolites derived from synthetic tablets have fewer therapeutic advantages and adverse side effects. Therefore, medicinal tablets derived from natural sources can be free from side effects due to the fact they exert pharmacological and physiological actions on internal live cells.<sup>[36,37]</sup>

Moreover, natural products have unique molecular characteristics that distinguish them from synthetic molecules. Compared to manufactured items, raw materials often exhibit relatively little structural variety, showcasing distinct chemical structures that have developed. In addition, these compounds frequently have decreased partition coefficients, displaying their inclination in the direction of aqueous environments. Natural products regularly exhibit unique length stages, making molecular mass an extraordinary function [38]. Examples of natural compounds that reveal those characteristics encompass secondary metabolites including alkaloids, flavonoids, and terpenoids. <sup>[39]</sup>



Another example consists of cellulose nanofibers, which can be derived from herbal cellulose and own a low linear growth coefficient. In order to thrive in those areas, organisms have advanced and acquired numerous processes, resulting in the creation of a wonderful and sundry variety of organic compounds that could function fashions for the layout of novel medicinal materials<sup>[40,41]</sup> In addition, natural products engage greater with enzymes, proteins, and different organic molecules. Furthermore, herbal merchandise contains fewer heavy metals and has better molecular stiffness than artificial chemical compounds and combinatorial libraries. Many recently discovered compounds are derived from medicinal plants.<sup>[41,42]</sup>

Medicinal uses of plants vary from preparations or crude extracts to refined extracts and varieties with single molecular structures. In fact, various herbs or plant extracts have now been tested in clinical trials to treat a wide variety of diseases. These plant-based compounds have been used in traditional medicine for thousands of years, and their therapeutic potential is currently being studied in modern medicine Cannabidiol (CBD) produced from the cannabis plant, is one example of a plant-derived medicine that is now being tested in clinical trials <sup>[43]</sup> CBD has demonstrated anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and anti-anxiety properties, and is being researched for potential use in the treatment of diseases such as epilepsy, anxiety, and chronic pain [44]. Artemisinin, a compound sweet wormwood plant, is another example, is about to research its ability to treat malaria. Artemisinin has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years and is currently being investigated for its usefulness in drug-resistant forms of malaria.

Recent global licenses for several new plant-derived drugs and semi-synthesized drugs based on plant compounds suggest that medicinal plants are important alternative sources of drugs for they stay. <sup>[47,48]</sup>

## CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS:

The inordinate birth of factory species for their remedial constituents might affect in the prostration of natural coffers and will hang certain factory species. Furthermore, the act of unsustainably accumulating assets can also lead to habitat degradation that can reason disturbances in ecosystems and pose damage to biodiversity. These problems emphasize the need for sustainable and responsible sourcing methods, in addition to the protection of medicinal plant species to save both the ecosystem and indigenous populations reliant on those sources. Ensuring the steady quality and effectiveness of plant-derived chemical compounds can be a complicated project. Plant genetics, ambient situations, and harvesting techniques may additionally impact the chemical makeup of herbal products. <sup>[49]</sup>

The standardization of plant extracts, a vital factor for ensuring the constant replication of medicinal movements, would possibly need to be improved. Implementing stringent satisfactory manipulation processes, which include thorough testing and the setting of unique nice requirements, is critical to ensure the protection and effectiveness of products constituted from natural sources. Variations in the concentration of bioactive substances or impurities have an effect on the dependability and protection of herbal treatments. The pharmacokinetics of plant-derived substances show off sizable variability, which affects their bioavailability, distribution, metabolism, and elimination within the human frame. <sup>[50,51]</sup>

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Despite a period in which pharmaceutical companies have cut back on the use of natural product agents in drug discovery, there are many promising compounds in the current development process that naturally have reduced Technical drawbacks associated with physics research have decreased, physics previously unavailable. There are also excellent opportunities to explore the biological activity of sources through the widely accepted range of natural chemicals.

There isn't any doubt that are among the most perfect "natural laboratories" for the synthesis of numerous molecules ranging from easy skeleton to particularly complex chemical systems. If secondary metabolites are compared with randomly synthesized compounds, natural metabolites are advanced in phrases of biological and pharmacological activities. Present drug discovery from medicinal plant life has mainly relied on biological activity-guided isolation strategies, which, for instance, have brought about the isolation, identification and invention of critical capsules. Drug discovery begins with attempts to discover a molecule that causes a particular biological reaction. In the relatively competitive.

Environment of modern-day pharmaceutical studies, herbal products provide a unique element of molecular range and biological functionality, that is indispensable for drug discovery. Moreover, secondary metabolites from plants show striking structural diversity that dietary supplements chemically synthesized compounds or libraries in drug discovery applications.

Volume 30, Issue 12, December 2024 ijppr.humanjournals.com ISSN: 2349-7203

#### REFERENCES

1. M. Lahlou, "Screening of Natural Products for Drug Discovery," Expert Opinion on Drug Discovery, Vol. 2, No. 5, 2007, pp. 697-705. doi:10.1517/17460441.2.5.

2. B. Patwardhan, A. D. B. Vaidya and M. Chorghade, "Ayurveda and Natural Products Drug Discovery," Current Science, Vol. 86, No. 6, 2004, pp. 789-799

3. J. Nisbet and M. Moore, "Will Natural Products Remain an Important Source of Drug Research for the Future?" Current Opinion in Biotechnology, Vol. 8, No. 6, 1997, pp. 708-712. doi:10.1016/S0958-1669(97)80124.

- 4. Sircar NN. Medicinal plants. The Eastern Pharmacist. 1982;29(291):49-52
- 5. Tariq O, Siddiqi AJ. Vitamin C content of Indian medicinal plants- a literature review. Indian Drugs. 1985;23(2):72-83
- 6. Panda H. Handbook on Medicinal Herbs With Uses. New Delhi: Asia Pacific Business Press; 2004. p. 564
- 7. K.S. Lam New aspects of natural products in drug discovery Trends Microbiol.( 2007

8. Buriani, A.; Garcia-Bermejo, M.L.; Bosisio, E.; Xu, Q.; Li, H.; Dong, X.; Simmonds, M.S.; Carrara, M.; Tejedor, N.; Lucio-Cazana, J.; et al. Omic techniques in systems biology approach to traditional Chinese medicine research: Present and future. J. Ethnopharmacol. 2012, 140, 535–544

9. Ganie, S.H.; Upadhyay, P.; Das, S.; Prasad Sharma, M. Authentication of medicinal plants by DNA markers. Plant Gene 2015, 4, 83–99.

10. Ghorbani, A.; Saeedi, Y.; de Boer, H.J. Unidentifiable by morphology: DNA barcoding of plant material in local markets in Iran. PLoS ONE 2017, 12, e0175722.

11. Thompson, K.A.; Newmaster, S.G. Molecular taxonomic tools provide more accurate estimates of species richness at less cost than traditional morphology-based taxonomic practices in a vegetation survey. Biodivers. Conserv. 2014, 23, 1411–1424

12. Cao, M.; Wang, J.; Yao, L.; Xie, S.; Du, J.; Zhao, X. Authentication of animal signatures in traditional Chinese medicine of LingyangQingfei Wan using routine molecular diagnostic assays. Mol. Biol. Rep. 2014, 41, 2485–2491.

13. Bumpus, S.B.; Evans, B.S.; Thomas, P.M.; Ntai, I.; Kelleher, N.L. A proteomics approach to discovery of natural products and their biosynthetic pathways. Nat. Biotechnol. 2009, 27, 951–956.

14. Lum, J.H.; Fung, K.L.; Cheung, P.Y.; Wong, M.S.; Lee, C.H.; Kwok, F.S.; Leung, M.C.; Hui, P.K.; Lo, S.C. Proteome of oriental ginseng Panax ginseng C.A. Meyer and the potential to use it as an identification tool. Proteomics 2002, 2, 1123–1130.

15. Lao, Y.; Wang, X.; Xu, N.; Zhang, H.; Xu, H. Application of proteomics to determine the mechanism of action of traditional Chinese medicine remedies. J. Ethnopharmacol. 2014, 155, 1–8.

16. Guan, D.; Chen, Z. Challenges and recent advances in affinity purification of tag-free proteins. Biotechnol. Lett. 2014, 36, 1391–1406. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef] [PubMed]

17. Novick, D.; Rubinstein, M. Ligand affinity chromatography, an indispensable method for the purification of soluble cytokine receptors and binding proteins. Methods Mol. Biol. 2012, 820, 195–214.

18. McFedries, A.; Schwaid, A.; Saghatelian, A. Methods for the elucidation of protein-small molecule interactions. Chem. Biol. 2013, 20, 667–673

19. Chang, J.; Kim, Y.; Kwon, H.J. Advances in identification and validation of protein targets of natural products without chemical modification. Nat. Prod. Rep. 2016, 33, 719–730.

20. E. J. Jacob, "Natural Products-Based Drug Discovery: Some Bottlenecks and Considerations," Current Science, Vol. 96, No. 6, 2009, pp. 753-754.

21. M. S. Butler, "The Role of Natural Product Chemistry in Drug Discovery," Journal of Natural Products, Vol. 67, No. 12, 2004, pp. 2141-2153. doi:10.1021/np040106y

22. Y. W. Chin, M. J. Balunas, H. B. Chai and A. D. Kinghorn, "Drug Discovery from Natural Sources," The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Journal, Vol. 8, No. 2, 2006, pp. 239-242.

23. J. H. Shen, X. Y. Xu, F. Cheng, et al., "Virtual Screening on Natural Products for Discovering Active Compounds and Target Information," Current Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. 10, No. 21, 2003, pp. 2327-2342. doi:10.2174/0929867033456729

24. C. Mahidol, S. Ruchirawat, H. Prawa, et al., "Biodiversity and Natural Product Drug Discovery," Pure and Applied Chemistry, Vol. 70, No. 11, 1998, pp. 2065-2072. doi:10.1351/pac199870112065

25. M. K. Lutz, "Putting Nature Back into Drug Discovery," Nature Biotechnology, Vol. 21, No. 3, 2003, pp. 602-604. doi:10.1038/nbt0603-602

26. L. J. Nisbet, M. Moore and D. D. Soejarto, "Will Natural Products Remain an Important Source of Drug Research for the Future?" Current Opinion in Biotechnology, Vol. 8, No. 6, 1997, pp. 708-712. doi:10.1016/S0958-1669(97)80124-3

27. A. L. Harvey, "Medicines from Nature: Are Natural Products Still Relevant to Drug Discovery?" Trends in Pharmacological Sciences, Vol. 20, No. 5, 1999, pp. 196-198. doi:10.1016/S0165-6147(99)01346-2

28. E. K Frank, G. T. Carter, "The Evolving Role of Natural Products in Drug Discovery," Nature, Vol. 4, No. 3, 2005, pp. 206-220. doi:10.1038/nrd1657

29. Lautie, E.; Russo, O.; Ducrot, P.; Boutin, J.A. Unraveling plant natural chemical diversity for drug discovery purposes. Front. Pharmacol. 2020, 11, 397.



Volume 30, Issue 12, December 2024 ijppr.humanjournals.com ISSN: 2349-7203

30. Marchev, A.S.; Vasileva, L.V.; Amirova, K.M.; Savova, M.S.; Balcheva-Sivenova, Z.P.; Georgiev, M.I. Metabolomics and health: From nutritional crops and plant-based pharmaceuticals to profiling of human biofluids. Cell. Mol. Life Sci. 2021, 78, 6487–6503.

31. Dörnenburg, H. Progress in kalata peptide production via plant cell bioprocessing. Biotechnol. J. 2009, 4, 632-645.

32. Hefferon, K. Let Thy Food Be Thy Medicine: Plants and Modern Medicine; OUP USA: New York, NY, USA, 2012; ISBN 978-0-19-987397-5.

33. Jovovic, Z.; Andjelkovic, V.; Przulj, N.; Mandic, D. Untapped Genetic Diversity of Wild Relatives for Crop Improvement. In Rediscovery of Genetic and Genomic Resources for Future Food Security; Salgotra, R.K., Zargar, S.M., Eds.; Springer: Singapore, 2020; pp. 25–65.

34. Houghton, P.J. The role of plants in traditional medicine and current therapy. J. Altern. Complement. Med. 1995, 1, 131–143.

35. Inoue, M.; Hayashi, S.; Craker, L.E. Role of medicinal and aromatic plants: Past, present, and future. In Pharmacognosy-Medicinal Plants; IntechOpen: London, UK, 2019. [Google Scholar]

36. Mathur, S.; Hoskins, C. Drug development: Lessons from nature. Biomed. Rep. 2017, 6, 612-614.

37. Abdel-Aziz, S.M.; Aeron, A.; Kahil, T.A. Health Benefits and Possible Risks of Herbal Medicine. In Microbes in Food and Health; Garg, N., Abdel-Aziz, S.M., Aeron, A., Eds.; Springer International Publishing: Cham, Switzerland, 2016; pp. 97–116.

38. Valecha, N.; Looareesuwan, S.; Martensson, A.; Mohammed Abdulla, S.; Krudsood, S.; Tangpukdee, N.; Mohanty, S.; Mishra, S.K.; Tyagi, P.K.; Sharma, S.K. Arterolane, a new synthetic trioxolane for treatment of uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria: A phase II, multicenter, randomized, dose-finding clinical trial. Clin. Infect. Dis. 2010, 51, 684–691.

39. Salam, A.M.; Quave, C.L. Opportunities for plant natural products in infection control. Curr. Opin. Microbiol. 2018, 45, 189–194.

40. Chaachouay, N.; Douira, A.; Zidane, L. COVID-19, prevention and treatment with herbal medicine in the herbal markets of Salé Prefecture, North-Western Morocco. Eur. J. Integr. Med. 2021, 42, 101285.

41. Lahlou, M. The success of natural products in drug discovery. Pharmacol. Pharm. 2013, 4, 17-31.

42. Pascolutti, M.; Quinn, R.J. Natural products as lead structures: Chemical transformations to create lead-like libraries. Drug Discov. Today 2014, 19, 215–221.

43. Böttcher, C.; Harvey, K.; Forde, C.G.; Boss, P.K.; Davies, C. Auxin treatment of pre-veraison grape (Vitis vinifera L.) berries both delays ripening and increases the synchronicity of sugar accumulation. Aust. J. Grape Wine Res. 2011, 17, 1–8.

44. Majolo, F.; Delwing, L.K.D.O.B.; Marmitt, D.J.; Bustamante-Filho, I.C.; Goettert, M.I. Medicinal plants and bioactive natural compounds for cancer treatment: Important advances for drug discovery. Phytochem. Lett. 2019, 31, 196–207.

45. Cassano, T.; Villani, R.; Pace, L.; Carbone, A.; Bukke, V.N.; Orkisz, S.; Avolio, C.; Serviddio, G. From Cannabis sativa to cannabidiol: Promising therapeutic candidate for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Front. Pharmacol. 2020, 11, 124.

46. Chaachouay, N.; Azeroual, A.; Bencharki, B.; Douira, A.; Zidane, L. Cannabis sativa L.: A Review on Traditional Uses, Botany, Phytochemistry, and Pharmacological Aspects. Tradit. Integr. Med. 2023, 8, 97–116.

47. Wijeweera, G.; Wijekoon, N.; Gonawala, L.; Imran, Y.; Mohan, C.; De Silva, K.R.D. Therapeutic Implications of Some Natural Products for Neuroimmune Diseases: A Narrative of Clinical Studies Review. Evid.-Based Complement. Alternat. Med. 2023, 2023, 5583996.

48. Khan, M.S.A.; Ahmad, I. Herbal medicine: Current trends and future prospects. In New Look to Phytomedicine; Elsevier: Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2019; pp. 3–13.

49. Yang, L.; Wen, K.-S.; Ruan, X.; Zhao, Y.-X.; Wei, F.; Wang, Q. Response of plant secondary metabolites to environmental factors. Molecules 2018, 23, 762.

50. Lan, K.; Jia, W. An integrated metabolomics and pharmacokinetics strategy for multi-component drugs evaluation. Curr. Drug Metab. 2010, 11, 105–114.

51. Kumar, R.; Sharma, M. Herbal nanomedicine interactions to enhance pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and therapeutic index for better bioavailability and biocompatibility of herbal formulations. J. Mater. Nanosci. 2018, 5, 35–60.

How to cite this article:

Mr. Yogesh Wankhede et al. Ijppr.Human, 2024; Vol. 30 (12): 542-550.

Conflict of Interest Statement: All authors have nothing else to disclose.

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.