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Diploma in Pharmacy 1st Year
Pharmacognosy
Chapter 1 : Introduction of pharmacognosy

Topics	Page No
Pharmacognosy	3
History of pharmacognosy	3
Present status of pharmacognosy	4
Scope of Pharmacognosy	4



PHARMACOGNOSY

Chapter 1

Introduction of pharmacognosy

Pharmacognosy

Is a branch of bioscience dealing with medical and related products of crude and obtain from plants, animals, and mineral origin it can also defined as the study of drug obtain from natural origin

Pharmacognosy is taken from greek word
pharmkon- a drug
gignosio – to acquire the knowledge

The modern pharmacognosy is divided in eight fields

1. **Modical ethnobotany** : This branch studies the traditional use of plants for medicinal Use.
2. **Ethnopharmacology** : This branch studied the pharmacological properties of traditional medicinal substance.
3. **Phytotherapy** : This branch studies the medicinal use of plant extracts.
4. **Phytochemistry** : This branch studies the chemicals obtained from plants. This branch also include the identification of new drugs of plant origin.
5. **Zoopharmacognosy** : This branch studies the process by which animals self-medicate, i.e. They treat and prevent disease by using plants ,soil , and insects.
6. **Pharmacognosy-biotechnology** : This branch studied the synthesis of natural bioactive molecules using biotechnology.
7. **Herbal interaction** : This branch studies the interaction between herbs and other drugs and body.
8. **Marine pharmacognosy** : This branch studies the chemicals obtained from marine organisms.

History of pharmacognosy

- The greek Physician Hippocrates (460 BC – 360BC) Known as ‘ Father of Medicine’.
- Aristotle the renowned philosopher (384 BC – 322 BC)Is well Know for his study on animal kingdom.
- Theophrastus (370 BC – 287 BC) for the plant kingdom .
- Greek pharmacist Galen (131 BC – 200 AD) describe various method of preparation containing active constituents of crude drugs.
- The branch of dealing with the extraction of plants and animals drugs is known as Galenical Pharmacy.

Present status of pharmacognosy

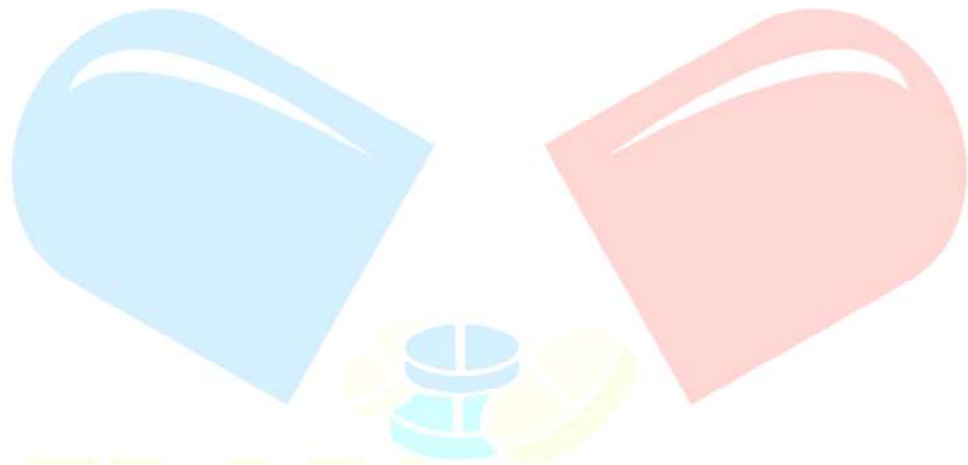
- At the present time, the people have realized that the use of naturally occurring drugs are not only economical but ever safer too.
- Active Constituents from naturally occurring drug have led to rapid development in pharmacognosy and phytochemistry.
- In present scenario, moderate state of all facilities like structure determination and pharmacological screening are available.
- Rapid development in the field of chemistry, biochemistry and pharmacology have further supported advancements in pharmacognosy.

Scope of Pharmacognosy

- 20th Century important drugs discovered from the animal kingdom during the century microorganisms have become essential source of drugs.
- 21st Century Chemistry & genetics were applied in plants to produce new plant & herb varieties.
- Scope of Pharmacognosy for isolation, extraction and development of new chemicals from medical plants was increased by the introduction of new branches.
- Pharmacognosy as an applied science has played an important role in developing different disciplines of science.

Scope of pharmacognosy discussed below

- **Synthesis drugs and antibiotics** : The demand of pharmaceutical production of plant origin has increased due to the world wide use of synthesis drugs and antibiotics.
- **Indigenous system of medicine** : Plants synthesis biologically active secondary metabolism due to which they called a Chemical laboratory.
Based on the availability of medicinal plants as raw material, the who has emphasized to utilization of indigenous system of medicine.
- **Herbal medicine** : Since herbal medicine do not have any toxic or side effects they have gained popularity in the recent year.
- **Medicinal plant** : Medicinal Plants are found distributed in almost all part of India, there it is richest so use of medicinal plant.
- **Plant Drugs and remedies** : Complex diseases like cancer AIDS are treated by plant drugs and remedies, which are safer than the Synthetic medicines.



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