

Recent advances in the identification and the study of composition and activities of medicinal plants

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Publication date

2016

Journal

Journal of Coastal Life Medicine

Volume

4

Issue

12

Pages

983-999

Description

Traditional medicine can be defined by the sum total of the knowledge, skills and practices based on theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures that are used to maintain and improve health, as well as to prevent, diagnose, and treat physical and mental illnesses [1]. Nowadays, there is a renewed interest in drugs of natural origin simply because they are considered as green medicine which is always supposed to be safe in addition to their ease of availability with affordable prices. Another factor which emphasizes the attention to the incidences of harmful nature of synthetic drugs which are regarded as harmful to human beings and environment [2].

It is estimated that 70%–80% of people worldwide rely mainly on traditional, largely herbal medicines to meet their primary healthcare needs. The global demand for herbal medicine is not only large, but also growing one [3]. In recent years, these medicinal herbs are much studied since their great employ in traditional medicine to treat regular ailments like gastrointestinal disorders, cold, fever and at present, other medicinal claims hold up with reliable scientific confirmations [4].