

CONCISE DESCRIPTION

The plants have been used as a source of medicine since time immemorial in India and other countries of the world. The Indian Holy books Vedas reveal medication with medicinal plants. Along with the development of Ayurveda as a science of life and health about 3000 years earlier, studies have also been made in the characterization of plants of medicinal value and also about their quality, uses and remedies for specific diseases. Two important Compendia on medicinal plants namely Charak Samhita and Sushruta Samhita were published between 1000 BC and 600 BC.

Plants are the most distinguished organic chemists on the earth. Photosynthesis is the most significant example of biosynthesis and indicates the processes whereby plants having the pigment chlorophyll absorb light energy and make use of it to convert atmospheric carbon dioxide in the presence of water to carbohydrates and other organic chemicals with meticulous details. Chemical compounds present in the plants are responsible for different characteristics of the plant's products.

This book aims to provide a simple, concise and collective description of 36 medicinal plant species, their chemistry and their uses for keeping good health. The book consists of four chapters, and their contents in brief are as given below.

The first chapter provides a brief history of medicinal plants, a concise description of phytochemicals from plants, their classes and significance and a very concise introduction about Ayurveda. The second chapter contains a brief description about the plants and their benefits. The details of the 36 important medicinal plants chosen for this book, entitled the name of the plant, family, Hindi name, brief description about the medicinal plant, parts used in medicine, medicinal and other uses, have been given. Chapter 3 describes the chemistry of the 36 important medicinal plants in brief. It includes the chemical compounds isolated and characterized from the different parts of plants in brief along with the structures of some bioactive principles. Chapter 4 briefly describes some common and specific uses of the 36 medicinal plants that help get rid of bad health conditions.

The book will be helpful to students, researchers, academicians, scientists, industrialists and people who are interested to know about medicinal plants and their uses.