

Current Trends in Medicinal Botany


Man has been using plants for healing purposes since time immemorial. All ancient civilizations have referred to medicinal plants, but the knowledge on medicinal plants has accumulated fast over the last few centuries. In the past few decades, plant scientists and chemists have put in a great deal of interest and efforts to identify the active ingredients of traditional or folk herbal medicines as therapeutic agents.

This book is an attempt to bring together the diverse research trends currently operative in the field of medicinal botany all over the globe. This book elucidates the varied facets of the current medicinal plant research. Beginning with the core study of distribution patterns of medicinal plants, it covers the wide range of chemical evaluation of their therapeutic properties, unravels the impact of environmental stresses on medicinal plants and their active ingredients, and highlights the modern investigations aiming at molecular authentication and quality assessment of medicinal plants, in vitro propagation of these plants for enhanced production of bioactive metabolites, and the metabolomic approach for metabolic fingerprinting and identification of new active compounds.

This book must prove to be a great source of information on recent research trends in medicinal botany and phytochemistry, catering to the need of students and researchers keen on medicinal plants and stimulating a general interest for the study of medicinal plants with a proper understanding of the associated cultural, environmental and scientific scenario, as they cannot be studied, evaluated and utilized fully and properly in isolation, and need to be looked at in a global perspective.

Professor Muhammad Iqbal, specializing in developmental, environmental and medicinal botany, has published 225 research papers, 64 book chapters, 54 popular articles, seven books and numerous technical reports and book reviews, and has guided thesis research of 30 Ph.D., 4 M.Phil. and over 80 M.Sc. students. He is Fellow of 7 scientific organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences, India, and the Linnaean Society of London, and recipient of 8 prestigious awards, including Vigyan Gaurav, the highest recognition in science & technology by the government of Uttar Pradesh. He has delivered invited lectures in universities of Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey. He worked as INSA Visiting Scientist in Korea and Poland and as Visiting Professor in KSA. He was Vice-President of Indian Botanical Society and International Society of Environmental Botanists, and President of Academy of Environmental Biology. He has worked as Head of Botany, Dean of Science and also as Vice Chancellor at Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi.

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