

PHCOG MAG.: How are we progressing?



Since beginning of this year Phcog Mag has seen a big change in its editorial policies and publication. I am indeed delighted to see the journal entering into the print format and as well being indexed in some of the reputed indexing services such as Index Copernicus, MANTIS, CAS, CABI, Indian Science Abstracts, google scholar and being indexed in EBSCO, IPA, MAPA etc.

Associated with the rise in industrialization and global development is the environmental pollution. Especially the heavy metals could be a major concern if not appropriately taken care of. True to their wide application natural products have shown to be of help in treatment of heavy metal toxicities. In line with this in the current issue Nair reports the beneficial effects of Teforli (poly herbal tonic) against cadmium chloride induce hepatotoxicity. Hence, tapping the natural resources to combat heavy metal toxicity is envisaged to be of potential interest and benefit to humankind.

Another interesting article in the current issue is on distribution of steroid like compounds in plants by Singh. With the commonwealth games just finished in Melbourne and several athletes under the suspicion of dope, I was just wondering if consumption of such plant materials could result in a positive dope. Just imagine such instances wherein vegetarians put the blame on their diet.

Also in this issue is an article on *Artemisia annua* (Antimalarial drug) by Namdeo et al. Malaria being one of the major killer in the under developed and developing nations and many major pharmaceuticals being reluctant to discover/develop antimalarial drugs considering its low economical returns. Its need of the hour to identify alternative approaches to discover/develop antimalarial drugs. Looking at the potential of natural source like *Artemisia annua* it is very encouraging to discover other plant resources with antimalarial activity. In similar lines is the article by Jabbar et al reporting the anthelmintic activity of *Trachyspermum ammi* seeds, which could after considerable testing become economical alternatives in future. The economical and social implications of such alternatives will be enormous.

I hope you all will enjoy reading this issue of Phcog Mag.

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Courtesy: PHCOG MAG. 2(6), 2006