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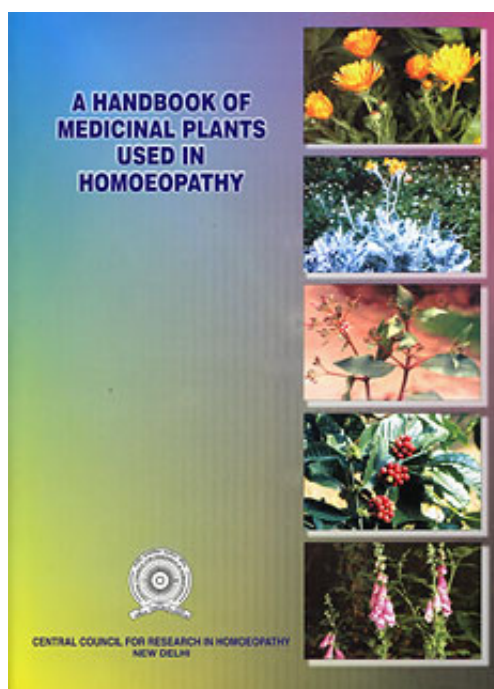
A Handbook of Medicinal Plants Used in Homeopathy

Reading excerpt

[A Handbook of Medicinal Plants Used in Homeopathy](#)

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FOREWORD

Nature's benevolent gift of plants is serving mankind, in health and disease, from time immemorial. AH systems of therapeutics, particularly Ayurvedha, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic medicine, derive most of their medicines from vegetable sources. India has traditionally made optimum use of medicinal plants to treat sick people. With the acquisition of knowledge about medicinal uses of plants, peoples' desire to explore and establish the utility of medicinal plants in a scientific manner is becoming increasingly intense. It is because of this quest that we are now able to make extensive use of medicinal plants in the form of herbal extracts, nutritive dietary supplements and also simple drugs for the treatment of many illnesses plaguing mankind, animals and vegetation. For example, Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) products are increasingly being used to prevent fungal infection of crops. To make optimum use of the great wealth of India, the Department of AYUSH has constituted a National Medicinal Plants Board, which is disseminating information on medicinal plants and encouraging their cultivation wherever possible.

Around eighty percent of Homoeopathic medicines are derived from vegetable sources. It is therefore imperative that we have an authentic source of literature on specific medicinal plants used in Homoeopathy. The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy had published a Checklist of Homoeopathic Medicinal Plants found in India in 1987 which was revised and reprinted in 1996. This compendium is now enlarged into 'A Handbook of Medicinal Plants used in Homoeopathy' Volume 1, with valuable additions to the information about the plant, including its Homoeopathic uses, history and authority. It is hoped that it will be a useful reference book for the members of the profession not only in India, but also abroad.

I compliment the team of scientists who have made efforts for the preparation of this Handbook and hope that they continue to work for this laudable cause.

Uma Pillai



Prof. Chaturbhuia Nayak
Director

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PREFACE

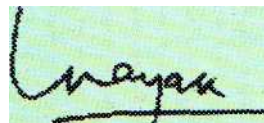
A large number of plants are used in Homoeopathy, many of which are not indigenous to India. The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy had embarked on the mission of compiling data both on the exotic and indigenous medicinal plants. These were published as "A Checklist of Homoeopathic Medicinal Plants found in India" (first edition 1987, second revised edition 1996 and third reprint edition 2003). While these publications were useful for research workers, students and academicians, there was a long felt need to provide additional information on these plants photographs for the benefit of users.

This publication aims at providing concise information about each plant, viz. scientific (botanical) name, along with basionyms found in Homoeopathic literature, family name, common name, brief description of the plant and its distribution, part used and history/authority of the medicinal plants (homoeopathic uses). The inclusion of plants from various sources is by no means exhaustive and further supplements are envisaged in the future. It is hoped, the book would be useful to the large sections of people who are adherents of the Homoeopathic system of medicine.

For obvious reasons, it was not possible to include all the plant-based drugs used in Homoeopathy in a single volume. The Council has,

therefore, included available plant based drugs in this volume. In future it would bring out subsequent volumes on other medicinal plants.

I congratulate the scientists of Survey of Medicinal Plants and Collection Unit, Udthagamandalam for this earnest endeavour in providing the inputs of this book. I am confident, the book will be appreciated by

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light green background. The signature appears to be 'C. Nayak' written in a cursive style.

(C. Nayak)

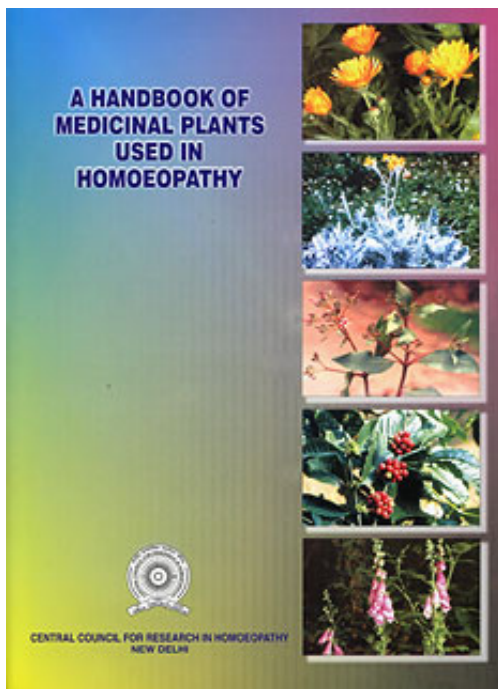
the scientists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy expresses its sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gerald D. Karr, Affiliate Emeritus Professor, Oregon State University/ Corvallis, United States of America; Professor Kazuo Yamasaki, Hiroshima, Japan; Mike and Tatiana Anderson at Top Tropicals.com, as also Shirley Denton, United States of America; Dr. Carsten Kettner, Beilstein Institute, Frankfurt on Maine, Germany; Dr. Peter Schonfelder, Institute for Pharmacy, Regensburg, Germany, Dr. Thomas Schoepke, Germany for giving permission to download and utilize pictures.

While every effort has been made in contacting similar authors and sources of pictures, if any name has been inadvertently left out we shall include the same in our future publications.

We also thank Dr. N. Mohanan, Scientist E-I of Tropical Botanic Gardens and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala for some pictures of plants used in Ayurvedha, useful in Homoeopathy; Dr. E. S. Rajendran, Dean, Shri Vinayaka Mission's Group of Educational Institutions, Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Salem, Tamil Nadu, Dr. V. A. Siddiqui, Research Officer (Homoeopathy), Mrs. J. Raj, Research Officer (Pharmacognosy), Shri H.C. Gupta, Assistant Research Officer (Pharmacognosy), Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, Dr. G. V. Joseph, Research Officer (Botany), Central Council for Research in Ayurvedha & Siddha, New Delhi, Dr. G. Ravichandran, Scientist, Central Potato Research Station, Muthurai, Tamil Nadu, Dr. V. Ramsundar, Horticultural Officer, Government Botanical Garden, Udthagamadalam for providing photos of medicinal plants used in Homoeopathy.



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