

Pharmacognosy:-

Pharmacognosy is defined as the scientific and systematic study of structural, physical, chemical and biological characters of crude drugs along with their history, method of cultivation, collection and preparation for the market.

- The word Pharmacognosy is derived from Greek word viz.
 - Pharmakon: A Drug

- Gignosco : To acquire the knowledge

The Pharmacognosy is the subject of crude drugs obtained from the plant, Animals and Minerals origins.

Source of crude drugs:-

1) Plant Source:- Neem, Babul, Tulsi, Saffron, Clove.

2) Animal source:- Honey bee, bee wax, Silk, Insulin, Shark, Liver oil, Thyroid.

3) Mineral source:- Chalk, bentonite, asbestos, talc, kaolin, Fuller's earth.

4) Micro- Organism: - Antibiotics,

5) Marine :- Salt, Protozoa, etc.

History of Pharmacognosy

Egyptians were aware of medicinal uses of several plants and animals and also about human anatomy.

The Greek physician
Hippocrates (460- 360 B.C)
known as 'Father of medicine'

Aristotle the renowned
philosopher (384 - 322 B.C.) is
well known for his studies on
animal Kingdom and
Theophrastus (370 - 287 B.C.)
for the plants Kingdom.

Pedanius Dioscorides, (040-
080 A.D.) A Greek physician in
78 A.D. described several
plants of medicinal

importance in "De Materia Medica".

Pliny the Elder (23-70 A.D.) who compiled 37 volumes of natural history.

Greek pharmacist Galen (131 - 200 A.D.) described various methods of preparation containing active constituents of crude drugs.

The branch of dealing with the extraction of plant and animal drugs is known as

Galenical Pharmacy. Indian history of medicinal plants is dated back to 3500 B.C.

The curative properties of plants have been mentioned in the Suktas Of Rigveda and Atharvaveda. Ayurveda has also described good number of plants with their therapeutic properties. The ancient well known known treaties in Ayurveda the Charak Samhita and Susruta

Samhita are written by Charka
And Susruta Respectively.