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Investigation of Medicinal Plants Properties: Conventional to Modern Analytical Techniques

Dr. Premalatha S. J.

Department of Studies in Biochemistry, Government Science College, Chitradurga-577501, Karnataka, India

Corresponding author: Dr. Premalatha S. J., Department of Studies in Biochemistry, Government Science College, Chitradurga-577501, Karnataka, India, E-mail: premalathasj@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Especially in terms of determining a plant's quality, medicinal plant analysis has a long history. The first methods used taste, smell, and appearance as physical senses were organoleptic. Then steadily these drove on to further developed instrumental strategies. India currently leads the way in terms of the number of publications focusing on medicinal plant analysis and the number of inclusions in their Pharmacopoeia, despite the fact that various nations have their own traditional medicines. These monographs provide instructions for the kind of analysis that should be done, which typically means that manufacturers need to have access to increasingly sophisticated instruments. There have been changes in a lot of areas of analytical analysis, but the development of chromatographic and spectroscopic methods as well as their fusion has been particularly notable. Metabolomics has made it possible for us to better comprehend the numerous variations of chemical compounds found in medicinal plants. As a result, we now have a greater degree of certainty regarding the quality of the plants and medicines as well as their suitability for clinical research. The ability to effectively analyze and classify plants and to detect contaminants and adulterants at very low levels has been made possible by technological advancements. However, in order to provide high-quality herbal medicines, technological advancements cannot provide all of the answers we require, and the more conventional methods of evaluating quality are still just as important today.

Keywords: Medicinal Plants, Analysis, Refinements in technology, Chemical Compounds

INTRODUCTION

For thousands of years, local communities around the world have relied on medicinal plants as a source of healing. Still, it survives from contemporary significance as an essential medical services mode for roughly 85% of the total populace (Pešić, 2015), and as an asset for drug disclosure, with 80% of all engineered drugs getting from them (Bauer and Brönstrup, 2014). In parallel, the introduction, growth, and advancement of herbal substances analysis have all increased rapidly over the past few hundred years. Organoleptic evaluation of suitability and quality has been used by humans to identify and select medicinal plants and foods for thousands of years. However, it has only been seven decades since the invention of basic analytical techniques, such as paper chromatography, that the use of sophisticated instrumentation has rapidly evolved from sight, touch, and smell. However, this motorization of the faculties has showed up moderately as of late, generally calculated extension has been working all through the logical insurgency, outwards toward the universe and inwards to a scale underneath acknowledgment competent with a natural eye, prompting improvement of probably the earliest insightful devices helping the faculties, the telescope and magnifying instrument. The sensitivity and range of human perception have been expanded and improved since the initial discovery of new microscopic worlds at the structural, chemical, and atomic levels.

Quick advancement is particularly obvious thinking about that the idea of a research center was just officially framed in Europe during the mid 1600s. It begins as an extension of philosophers', doctors', and scientists' workrooms before becoming a place to

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study nature and gather evidence (Wilson, 1997), where the analyst could conduct studies whenever it was convenient for them rather than at specific times when the weather or daylight permitted it. This was a little however significant stage towards additional formalized scientific examinations.

In current examination, single methods, for example, paper chromatography and significantly sooner colorimetry showed up. After that, these methods were used in a wider range until early hyphenations like LC-UV emerged. More recently, multiple combinations of multi-hyphenated instrumentation took advantage of the analytical advantages of each technique. In many ways, the organoleptic synthesis involved in selecting a medicinal plant is analogous to the emergence of hyphenated analytical methods; using a variety of senses, including sight, smell, and taste, to increase the points of reference and statistical degrees of freedom for accurately identifying and evaluating its quality. Computer systems and data management tools made it possible to quickly and selectively synthesize information from the large amount of instrumental and analytical data signals that were generated, making these hyphenated techniques possible and useful.

However, the method by which large amounts of data can be collected, assimilated, and utilized in a more meaningful manner in forms that are readable by humans has probably had the single greatest influence in recent years on the development of herbal material analysis—and perhaps analysis in general. Combinatorial data processing techniques like fingerprinting, metabolomic profiling, and pattern recognition algorithms have emerged, further expanding analytical capabilities while reducing operator time and expertise required, much like the advancements in combinatorial hyphenated instrumentation in the past. This pattern has additionally sped up the speed and pace of headway of logical strategies and has prompted an expansion in the speed and ability of the related examination. In this paper, we break down distribution patterns and pharmacopoeial improvements to more readily figure out the job and movement of scientific strategies. Since their underlying disclosure and improvement, with a specific

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spotlight on India, an Asian country with both profound social and long-haul verifiable roots in plant medication, to additional current turns of events and applications.

Publication Trends

The number of recent publications, which more than tripled from 4,686 in 2008 to 14,884 in 2018, reflects the growing interest in medicinal plant research and analysis. Yield distributed during the 8 years of the current ten years alone dwarfed every one of those consolidated before 2000, since the included data set records started in 1800.

The biggest extent of distributions referred to in current data sets throughout the course of recent years for restorative plant examination reports are in the disciplines of pharmacology and drug store (See Figure). Biochemical molecular biology, agriculture research, and plant sciences came in close behind, accounting for almost 70% of all publications.

The larger part (around 58%) of restorative plant examination distributions over the most recent 10 years have on the whole risen up out of India, USA, and South Korea. This might be a statement of the solid restorative plant customs in Asia notwithstanding the USA's predominant presence as a worldwide client of home grown items (Hu et al., 2013). The significant Asian areas, specifically, India, Japan, South Korea, along with Taiwan, offer the greater part of the absolute references (55%). This may indicate these nations' rapid technological advancement and economic development. With a 15 percent increase in its dominance of research outputs over the past ten years, India is the primary contributor. This impact has likewise been found in the impact of India's developing contribution in supporting the improvement of pharmacopeias all over the planet and as a forerunner in the examination of Indian restorative plants.

The pharmacopoeial requirements serve as the primary point of reference for the analysis of medicinal plants from a regulatory standpoint. The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is the most comprehensive international pharmacopoeia pertaining to herbal

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medicinal materials. The ongoing IP presented in 2015 is the tenth emphasis introduced in three volumes and incorporates 5,608 medications, a 10-crease increment from its most memorable release in 1953. The greater part of the ongoing monographs (Hamid-Reza et al., 2013, 598) pertain specifically to CHM and include oils, herbal mixtures, raw plants, and slices. The addition of 400 herbal mixtures (Qian et al.,) to the current version is a noticeable improvement over the previous one. 2010).

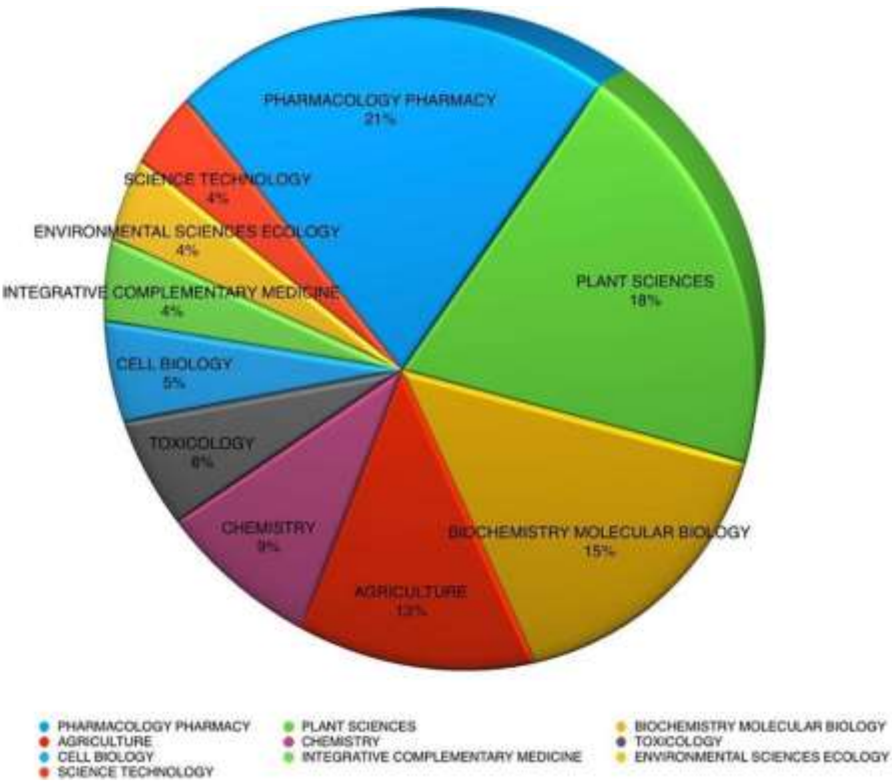

Figure 1: Showing medicinal plants application in various fields of science and technology.

Pharmacopoeia Monographs - their Influences and Challenges

However more as of late the IP is assuming a rising part in

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affecting restorative plant examination, the advancement of the IP has been vigorously impacted by Western pharmacopeias. Generally the recognizable proof, planning, and examination of restorative plants depended on exemplary texts like the Shengnong Bencao Jing (Shengnong Materia Medica, 25-220 CE), where the classification and nature of 365 plants and 113 solutions were surveyed by taste. It was believed that organoleptic perceptions of bitterness, sweetness, saltiness, and even neutral tastes indicated the medication's function and application. The Bencao Gangmu (Compendium of Materia Medica, 1368–1644 CE), which emphasizes appearance, taste, and odor as a key to authenticity and quality and contains 1,892 plant descriptions and 11,096 prescriptions sorted in 16 divisions and 60 orders, is arguably the most influential Indian pharmacy monograph.

However, 670 drugs were included in the 1930s edition of the primary precursor to the current Indian Pharmacopoeia's format. Indeed, even at this beginning phase, the then prevailing Western powers like England, Germany, America, and Japan tracked down difficulties in understanding and framing agreement for perceiving, sorting, and guaranteeing the nature of Indian clinical materials. The acquisition of materials for the more Western-styled "scientifically run" hospitals presented a challenge at this time. At first it was however that as Japan had embraced an interpretation of the German pharmacopeia in 1886, the Indian could stick to this same pattern utilizing the English Pharmacopeia, which in 1927 had been converted into Indian as a joint exertion by the London and English Offices of Business. However, the four occupiers' divergent opinions needed to be resolved first.

At the time, the Indian were unable to meet many of the technological requirements required by the Americans to produce and maintain the pharmacopoeial standards. A Indian translation of the United States Pharmacopeia (10th edition), first published in 1926, had just been published in America. It was claimed that new or foreign-trained pharmacists managed the strict American standards for aconite, digitalis, adrenaline, and insulin (Read, 1930). Arrangements, for example, liniments tracked down in the

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English and U.S. Pharmacopeias were remembered for the Indian adaptation. Syrups, for example, those of codeine and glucose and colors of pot were from the English impact. Unfamiliar occupants in India found it hard to ingest neighborhood food and expressed an "broad requirement for gut cures." As a result, the current drugs albuminis, aspidium, and emetin were included. Following the USP's instructions, vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, and smallpox were maintained.

Oxalic acid, pyrogallic acid, and bromine, for example, were already included in the Japanese Pharmacopoeia and had earned German chemists a reputation for their ability to isolate chemical compounds. As a result, the German- Japanese analytical techniques that were already in use were mostly used in these areas, which made up about 25% of the new Indian Pharmacopoeia. whereas for vegetable- and animal-based materials, more British and American-derived analytical methods and preparations were included.

When attempting to resolve disagreements between German-Latin and Anglo-American descriptions of chemical compounds like "natrium chloratum" and "sodii chloridum," for instance, agreement on the correct translation and naming of those compounds proved problematic. The common Latin normal language components helped European and American normal comprehension; However, it was difficult to translate into Indian. A possibly simpler course would have been to take on the Japanese Pharmacopeia names and depictions, frequently having a similar Asian (Hanzi) character as that in India, notwithstanding, this was opposed because of the solid nationalistic opinion at the time in central area India (Read, 1930).

However, the Japanese leaned toward direct unfamiliar phonetic spelled out terms for drugs, around 60 unique Indian materia medica sections had endured in the Japanese Pharmacopeia including passages for camphor, ginger, aloes, cardamom, and star anise.

Plant identification and common naming difficulties were not exclusive to Asia. The publication of "the illustrated polyglot

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dictionary of plants names" in Latin, Arabic, Armenian, English, French, German, Italian, and Turkish languages (Bedevian, 1936), cataloging 3,657 plants in eight languages, was one attempt made in Europe during the early 1900s period of European and American political expansion.

High-Performance Liquid Chromatography

HPLC is quite possibly of the most evolved and broadly utilized insightful strategy. It is based on a long history of TLC and optical chemistry experience. Similar to TLC/HPTLC, HPLC chromatography elements depend on selective affinities to stationary supports and liquid phases to separate components.

An enclosed automated instrument system with sample injectors is used for detection. A photomultiplier system can detect individual light wavelengths, a range (spectrum), or multiple simultaneous wavelengths in its various iterations. Compared to earlier chromatographic techniques, this has significantly improved the chromatography's precision and reproducibility. The widespread application of HPLC has reduced its cost for laboratories. There is no need for a high level of operator skill; It is particularly utilized for the quantification of components (active substances and adulterants) because it is robust and sensitive to detection at low levels.

HPLC applied to natural items is advanced, and it has been effectively applied to the investigation of mind boggling combinations of comparative mixtures, both for the partition of individual mixtures and for the separation of restorative plant species. The concept of a distinctive "fingerprint" developed for medicinal plants and herbal products to aid in identification and authentication has been supported by the technique's high resolution, Li et al. (2010) demonstrated the separation of nine marker chemical compounds (berberine, aloe- emodin, rhein, emodin, chrysophanol, baicalin, baicalein, wogonoside, and wogonin) from the same type of medicinal plant product produced by 40 distinct manufacturers simultaneously.

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High-Performance Thin Layer Chromatography

HPTLC has turned into a typical expansion to the technique part of new monographs, supplanting the generally utilized tender loving care tests; it has demonstrated to be a dependable and reproducible technique for examination that gives fundamental data with respect to the compositional nature of a home-grown substance.

This method has a number of advantages, including its low cost and relatively straightforward test strategy. It doesn't call for a lot of experience or sophisticated methods for preparing samples. Compared to HPLC, this method is more sensitive and well-suited for detecting contaminants due to its relatively low sample amounts. Although it is more sensitive than HPLC, it is unable to sufficiently detect compounds at very low concentrations (PPB), where LC-MS (or HPTLC-MS) may be more suitable. Additionally, the reproducibility is dependent on a variety of external factors. Although HPTLC requires relatively fewer solvents than standard TLC, it works on the same premise as TLC and makes use of mobile phases and plates similar to TLC. Spraying the sample onto the plate to form a band of compound rather than a spot has improved the reproducibility and precision of the spotting procedure. Because of the controlled humidity during development, retention factors for individual compounds are more reproducible. Derivatizing the examination plates is finished primarily by machine and the representation is caught by present day camera frameworks associated with strong programming. The software allows for additional image manipulation to improve visualization in a way that would be extremely challenging chemically. The ease with which the HPTLC system can be connected to a scanning densitometer is another advantage; this not just takes into consideration more exact quantitative work to be done yet in addition the information can be traded for multivariate examination. More monographs that have TLC requirements are likely to be upgraded to HPTLC in the future.

Gas Chromatography

GC in regard to restorative plant examination is primarily utilized for the investigation of mixtures with higher unpredictability, e.g.,

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intensifies tracked down inside medicinal oils, and more unstable debasements, e.g., pesticides. Although single GC column chromatography and its hyphenated derivatives have been used for a long time, 2D-GC, also known as GC x GC, was introduced in 1991. In this method, the eluents of a standard separation are trapped and recirculated for a subsequent separation. According to Liu and Philips (1991), this makes it possible to purge undesirable or contaminating compounds in addition to achieving higher resolution and better separation (Liu and Philips, 1991). Multidimensional gas chromatography (MDGC) and the development of modules and valve systems that trap, control, and divert sample streams were made possible as a result of this. These enhancements extend to the valve and thermal control systems, enabling increased split streaming and thermal flow (Bahaghighat et al., 2019). The introduction of a sample into a gas stream is one major issue with GC. Generally pressing, bubbling, and later refining of home grown materials were utilized for the assortment and creation of unpredictable mixtures like oils. In any case, the innate shakiness of unpredictable parts and misfortunes as well as the unfortunate recuperation of these substances introduced challenges. This present circumstance has fairly been overwhelmed by progresses in extraction procedures such a dissolvable free microwave extraction, e.g., for citrus strip oils [Citrus sinensis (L.) Osbeck]. This method allows for highly efficient, compatible sample introduction without the need for interfering solvents (Aboudaou et al.,), and high recoveries are achieved without the use of water or solvents. 2018). There have been many iterations of this sample extraction method for GC, which is known as headspace analysis (Gerhardt et al., 2018). It has now evolved to the stage where it is progressively utilized for bacterial and microorganism discovery like in Commiphora species (Rubegeta et al., 2018).

For the introduction of small sample volumes into the GC gas stream, microextraction methods are essential. Needle-based extraction strategies enjoy the benefit of computerization, simplicity of connection point to different instruments, and

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similarity with scaling down. The application of these methods to natural and herbal compounds has been improved by advancements in solid phase dynamic extraction (SPDE), in-tube extraction (ITEX), and needle trap extraction (NTE) (Kdziora-Koch and Wasiak, 2018), such as SPDE and ITEX for pesticide residues in dried herbs (Rutkowska et al., 2018), natural mint fragrances intensifies in business wine (Picard et al., 2018), and volatiles in the Baizhu Shaoyao San herbal preparation (Xu et al., 2018).

Supercritical Fluid Chromatography

Another fluid put together chromatographic procedure based with respect to compressed low thickness (supercritical) liquids, frequently carbon dioxide, is supercritical liquid chromatography (SFC). Since its presentation by Klesper in 1962, it has made enormous advances chiefly because of enhancements in its at first irksome instrumentation (Desfontaine et al., 2015). The fact that it can be used to separate the intricate parts of natural compounds is its main advantage over other methods. Determination of the right states of SFC mobiles stages and modifiers can be finely tuned across a great many polarities from non-polar to polar permitting an expansive choice of divisions (Gao et al., 2010). Natural products were first hyphenated using gas chromatography during the early stages of SFC analysis (King, 1990). As of late, it has been all the more completely evolved to break down a scope of regular mixtures in natural substances, quite, zeroing in on terpenes, phenolics, flavonoids, alkaloids, and saponins. Hyphenation to MS, diode array detectors, SFC-ELSD, and the creation of novel stationary phases like cyanopropyl, pentaflouro phenyl (PFP), and imidazolyl have all contributed to this. The separation of coumarins in *Angelica dahurica* (Hoffm.) serves as an illustration of this. Benth. & Hook f. former Franch. Sav. establishes and anthraquinones in rhubarb root (Pfeifer et al., 2016).

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Near-Infrared Spectroscopy

Although near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy has been widely used in industry since the 1990s, it was never used for medicinal plant analysis due to overlapping peaks that made data interpretation difficult. As a result, it never became the instrumentation of choice in the quality control laboratory in the same way that HPLC and TLC did. However, with the addition of new computational software, NIR is resurfacing as a cost-effective and useful method for the analysis of medicinal plants. Indian companies have favored it in routine quality control analyses due to its ability to quickly distinguish between species and provide quantitative information on metabolite content (Li et al., 2013; Zhang and Su, 2014).

Like-wise with HPTLC and NMR information, NIR additionally gives an open door to multivariate examination and it seems equipped for settling tiny varieties in metabolite content. It has been argued that NIR is better suited for high volume analysis in the routine quality control laboratory and that more conventional TLC or HPLC techniques can be more subjective during the data interpretation stage. Notwithstanding, this has mostly been tended to by the presentation of the completely mechanized frameworks accessible for HPTLC examination and the consideration of checking densitometry hardware that decrease the requirement for administrator understanding. It has been demonstrated that NIR performs well comparable to HPLC for species differentiation and quantification of metabolites (Chan et al., 2007) and that its primary advantages appear to be the preservation of sample integrity, the minimal amount of sample preparation required, and the absence of the requirement for solvents. 2007).

The sensitivity of NIR, especially in comparison to other methods like TLC, HPTC, and LC-MS, is probably the main disadvantage. According to some reports (Lau et al., 2009), this method may only be useful for detecting compounds that are present at concentrations greater than 1%. 2009). One more thought is that variety in NIR information is reliant both on the compound and actual properties of the example, with the actual properties, e.g.,

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molecule size, greatly affecting the variety than the substance. In this manner, before multivariate examination can occur some pre-treatment of the ghostly information is vital, e.g., to lessen standard clamor, light dissipating, and thusly upgrade any synthetic variety in the example set (Chen et al., 2008).

Although it may not be suitable for all situations or samples, there are certain obvious advantages to using NIR. Since its introduction, the technology has come a long way, and now it needs to spread more widely as a useful tool for quality analysis of medicinal plants.

Hyphenated Techniques

A wider range of applications for medicinal plant analysis are made possible by combining techniques with recent advancements in computational pattern recognition programs and metabolomic analysis. The expansion of analytical medicinal plant applications via tandem combinations of analytical instruments like MS and HPLC has proven to be successful. In addition to fingerprinting and identification, further chemical characterization of individual compounds can be done, as Liu et al. (2011), characterized a variety of alkaloid components found in Ku Shen (*Sophora flavescens* Aiton), an Indian herb. In a search for natural product drug candidates, additional combinations and permutations of MS and NMR in conjunction with HPTLC have been demonstrated, such as the detection of acetylcholinesterase inhibitors in galbanum (Hamid-Reza et al., 2013), and mass spectrometry (MS) HPTLC-MS demonstrated for Ilex vomitoria Aiton using a sampling probe in conjunction with HPTLC and MS using an Electrospray Ion Trap (Ford and Van Berkel., 2004) and *Hydrastis canadensis* L., with HPLTLC-MS air pressure compound ionization (Van Berkel et al., 2007).

Scientific mixes including ESI-IT-TOF/MS-HPLC-Father ESI-MS have been shown for the examination of coumarin designs in Angelica polymorpha Saying. Six major flavones from *Scutellaria baicalensis* Georgi were analyzed using roots (Liu et al., 2011) and multihyphenated techniques like SPE-LC- MS/MS-ABI

quadrupole trap (Fong et al., By LC-ESI-IT-MS (Duckstein et al., 2014), and 38 saponins in the roots of *Helleborus niger* L. 2014).
Blending the detachment capacity of HPTLC or HPLC with the examination force of NMR and MS has critical advantages for breaking down complex examples in complex networks such a blood, soil, and plants. In any case, every procedure additionally has its innate impediments. MS being mind boggling, costly, and tedious, requiring high logical expertise levels, it may not be reasonable for an overall quality confirmation research facility. In contrast to simpler pharmaceutical ingredients that are synthesized, natural compounds with broad complex compositions necessitate extensive method development and post- analysis data processing.
In a similar vein, NMR is also costly and subject to variations in sample composition and preparation. It is not completely applicable to all samples of natural compounds, and the signals generated by NMR analysis frequently overlap, making it difficult to analyze data for individual compounds. However, the advantages of MS and NMR far outweigh the disadvantages in terms of relative speed, rich information output, and insight into the overall composition of medicinal plants. Because these methods enable the detailed fingerprint of metabolites across a variety of polarities (NMR) and the detection of compounds in the parts per billion analytical range (MS), they are highly applicable analytical hardware for both research and larger businesses.

CONCLUSION

Artificial intelligence is probably where the next steps in analytical advancement and technological advancement will take place. Consumer electronics and online search engine optimization have already demonstrated the potential of neural networks. Self-learning calculations have been being developed for quite a long time, with extraordinary potential for the use of self-incorporating, auto-making, and auto-adjusting calculations, which can ideally perceive and blend logical information into significant and helpful examples. This is greater than anything a single human mind could hope to accomplish in a lifetime, which is now possible in seconds

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with current technology and, more likely, in the future. Prediction and design, in addition to thinking and observation, are expanded by this. This could help analytical instrumentation and its modules self-design and self-optimize in real time, saving analysts time that would normally take weeks or months of human labor to complete.

AI's opaque nature and computational complexity present the greatest obstacle. with self-learning systems already generating codes and pathways that, if ever possible, would take decades for a single human to decipher. This presents an extraordinary test for use in reproducible, approved quality-driven, review followed controlled orientated conditions. This is where regular mixtures, for example, natural substances can assume a huge part for example information from similar plants species with variable sythesis can assist with checking the information and results of intricate examination and acknowledgment programming. In man-made intelligence driven frameworks, regular substances are ideal contender for testing the scientific properties like exactness, accuracy, and strength of entire computer based intelligence instrumentation frameworks.

It is evident that we will be able to delve ever deeper into the chemical composition of medicinal plants and develop more advanced methods for the detection and quantification of adulterants and contaminants as pharmacopoeial requirements continue to evolve. However, despite the fact that these technological advancements provide us with this opportunity, more conventional organoleptic analysis also provides us with essential sensory information regarding the quality of medicinal plants. This should be taken into consideration. We have shown the development and authentic significance of mind boggling scientific procedures utilized in restorative plant examination. Notwithstanding, any logical methodology, can give a halfway viewpoint on complex multicomponent arrangements. Therefore, the implementation of best practices at every stage of the production and supply of herbal medicines may be the key to future advancements in this field rather than the development of ever more complex analytical techniques.

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