Classification of vegetable or Natural drugs
The vegetable or herbs (natural drugs) are arranged for study under following headline

1- **Alphabetical method**

In this system the drugs are arranged into alphabetical groups or in alphabetical order using either Latin names or English names.

* European pharmacopeia use the Latin name
* British Pharmacopeia (BP) use English names

2- **Morphological method**

The natural drugs or herbs are grouped or arranged in groups of roots, fruit, flowers, leaves, stems, seeds, barks, .... etc.
3- Taxonomical method

In this system the natural drugs are arranged according to the plant from which they are obtained using one of the expected system of potential nomenclature such as phylum, families, genus and species.

For example:
Peppermint
Phylum: Angiospermae
Order: Tubiflorae
Family: Labiatae
Genus: Mentha
Species: piperita

Then the scientific name is Mentha piperita or Mentha piperita linn. var. officinalis (white peppermint) sole or Mentha piperita linn. Var. vulgaris (black peppermint) sole.
So there are two methods used for taxonomical classification

a) **Morphological characters (plant taxonomy)** which depends on hundred of plants characters such as morphological, histological, serological, chemical, genetic which are used to form system of taxonomical classification.

B) **Chemical plant taxonomy** which depend on chemical constituents of plant which are more definable and characteristic useful for taxonomical classification

4- **Pharmacological or therapeutic method**
The drugs are arranged into groups according to the pharmacological activity (therapeutic use) of the most important constituents for example:-

Drugs acting on C.N.S.
ex:- caffeine, codeine, theophyline .......etc.

Drug acting on cardiac muscle (heart muscle)
Ex:- cardiac glycosides as digoxin (increase the heart rate) and Qunidin a decrease the heart rate.

Drug acting on blood vessels:
ex:- ephedrine increase the blood pressure (vaso constriction)
reserpine decrease the blood pressure (vaso dilation)

Drug acting on G.I.T.
Ex:- cascara, senna, aloe. (act as laxative (cathartics) but large amount (dosage) of them will becomes purgative.)
In this system the natural drugs are grouped according their most important chemical constituent such as: alkaloids, glycosides, Flavonoids, volatile oil, resins and carbohydrate or there are arrangement according to the biosynthetic pathway by which the constituents are produced.

1-acetate malonate pathway
2-mevalonate pathway
3-shikimic pathway
Plant nomenclature

In the textbook of pharmacology in pharmacopeia, in the taxonomic textbook and related publication, we found that the potential names of these plants are followed by person names such as linnaeous and sole. These names referred to the name biologist who first describe the characters of the plants, before the advantage of linnaeous the potential name of plant where written used double latin name but to different this scientist and this workers, a new system of plant nomenclature was employed in this role which said that the first name of plant is written starting with capital latter which represent the name of the genus of the plant while the second name of the plant is written starting with small latter which represent the name of the species of the plant and written under line.

For example:

**Atropa belladonna**
Family: solanaceae

Some time the name of the plants may be chose from a certain characters of the plants as in case of **Atropa belladonna**

Atropa means, atropose (poisonous), belladonna from latin words means bella = beauty, donna = lady.

**Cinchona saccirabra** latin word means red juice.
Orange peel is named as **Citrus aurantium** latin word means golden – yellow color.