Lecture 8

Medicinal Plant

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Family: Solanaceae

- Also known as the potato family
- Species that is widely cultivated, potato (*Solanum tuberosum*).
- Other cultivated edible crops are the tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum*).
- The aubergine (*Solanum melongena*).

Family: Solanaceae

- The potato is only edible when ripe, as green potatoes were found to be poisonous.
- Natives in Mediterranean. Include:
- Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) and Indian thorn apple (*Datura metel*).
- Other important species include black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*)

Family: Poaceae

- Known as grass family
- One of the largest plantfamilies with almost 12.000 species
- The most important plant family in economical view.
- Grasses are used in:

1. Pharmaceutical industry
2. Cosmetical industry, in products like powders and various creams

Family: Poaceae

- **Example: lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)**
- Perennial grass, which is native to India and tropical regions of Asia.

❖**Part used:** leaves

❖**Medicinal Uses and Health benefits:**

- Lowers Cholesterol
- Detoxifies the Body
- Anti-cancerous activity, prevent skin cancer

Lower plants: Bryophytes

- Members of the plant kingdom
- Remain unattended and their useful aspects are largely ignored.
- However, these can be used for food, fiber, crafts, building material, abrasives, decoration and also as medicine
- Examples:

1. Common liverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*)
2. Liverworts (*Riccia* sp.)
3. Staghorn clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*)
4. Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

Lower plants: Bryophytes

1. **Common liverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*)**

- **Medicinal uses:**
- Against inflammation: The washed thoroughly with water, ground into fine paste and applied externally on inflammation

2. **Liverworts (Riccia sp.)**

- **Medicinal uses:**
- Against ringworms in children: The thallus in washed and ground to paste and mixed with jaggery and given to the children affected by the ringworms.

Lower plants: Bryophytes

3. Staghorn clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*)

- **Medicinal uses:**

1. Cramps
3. Spores are used against rheumatism
4. The plant is chewed to induce vomiting in case of food poisoning.

Lower plants: Bryophytes

4. Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

- Native to both North America and Europe.
- It is one of only a few Equisetum survivors from the dinosaur era.

❖**Plant Parts Used:**

- The green shoots are collected and used fresh and dried.

Lower plants: Bryophytes

4. **Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)**

❖**Medicinal uses:**

1. Repair broken bones and as an herbal remedy for arthritis.
2. Treat inflammation of the prostate gland, or benign enlargement of the prostate [benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)].
3. Herbal treatment of kidney stones.



THANKS
FOR
LISTENING