

Editorial – Supplementary Issue



I.E. Cock^{a,b*}
Editor-In-Chief

^aEnvironmental Futures Centre, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, Australia

^bBiomolecular and Physical Sciences, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, Australia

Dear readers and authors,

We are pleased to bring you a special supplementary issue to volume 2, issue 1, Pharmacognosy Communications. This supplementary issue features a major work examining and reviewing plants and plant products with anticonvulsant activity. This study will be of interest to all readers with an interest in epilepsy and anticonvulsant treatments using natural therapeutics. The authors of this study have exhaustively reviewed the literature/pharmacological reports related to anticonvulsant plants and plant products using a variety of major databases. The result is perhaps the most comprehensive listing

to date of plant species with reported anticonvulsant activity. In excess of 330 plant groupings have been listed and their activities qualitatively compared. Furthermore, the authors also list the plant part(s) used in therapeutic formulation preparation, the methods of preparation and administration as well as the therapeutic dosage. The results are summarised in tabular format for ease of comparison between plant species.

Various classes of phytochemicals have previously been reported to possess anticonvulsant activity. The authors examine the structures of many specific anticonvulsant phytochemicals and the therapeutic dosages and mechanisms of action of the pure components. Pharmacological reports of the anticonvulsant activities of alkaloids, lipids, terpenes and triterpenoids, flavonoids and coumarins have been summarised. Furthermore, various traditional anticonvulsant medicines from such diverse medicinal systems as Ayurveda, traditional Chinese medicine, Unani, Japanese kampo medicine and various African medicinal

***Correspondence**

Tel.: +61 7 37357637; fax: +61 7 37355282

E- mail: i.cock@griffith.edu.au (I. E. Cock)

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systems have been examined and compared. The authors also examine the patented anticonvulsant plant products and formulations.

For comparison, the authors have also listed plant species, natural formulations and purified phytoconstituents which were previously believed to possess anticonvulsant

activity, but which have since been shown to be inactive. The result is a balanced and comprehensive review of the current scientific knowledge of anticonvulsant plants and plant products. This review will be a useful resource for any researchers that study anticonvulsant therapies as well as those with an interest in epilepsy and its treatment.