

Editorial



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This issue of Pharmacognosy Communications is a special issue, presenting peer reviewed manuscripts of studies accepted for presentation at the upcoming 3rd International Symposium of Traditional Plant in Petra, Jordan in November 2012. Pharmacognosy Communications is pleased to be associated with this symposium as a sponsor. All manuscripts presented in this issue are of studies accepted for presentation at the symposium. As these manuscripts are published ahead of the conference, registration for delegates to attend the symposium is still available, although the deadline for the submission of presentations has passed. For further information about this event, please refer to the ISMP 2012 website (http://3ismp.bau.edu.jo/home_page.html).

This issue presents a number of studies related to various aspects of medicinal plants and their usage. The scope of the published studies spans but is not limited to the following related themes:

- Pharmacological activities of medicinal plants and their extracts.
- Ethnopharmacology of medicinal plants.
- Standardisation and quality control of herbal medicinal products.
- Cultivation of medicinal plants by conventional and organic techniques.
- The impact of cultivation and plant collection and harvesting on medicinal plant bio-diversity.
- Veterinary usage of medicinal plants and animal nutrition.

The published manuscripts include studies of plants with medicinal properties from diverse world regions including studies into the properties of the European plants licorice

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(*Glycyrrhiza glabra*), and mint (*Mentha spicata*), ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) which is of Asian origin but is widely cultivated internationally, medicinal Indian ferns, flax (*Linum Usitatissimum*) and caraway (*Carum carvi*) which are widespread throughout Africa, Europe and Asia, and of the Australian plant *Terminalia ferdinandiana*. A study on the widely cultivated food staple, durum wheat (*Triticum durum*) is also included in this issue as is an in depth review of Latin American medicinal plant usage and domestic growth trends. Indeed, studies of plants from all continents except Antarctica are included in this issue.

As well as the Petra symposium presentation manuscripts, this issue also continues with our regular features. We continue to keep the readership informed of interesting and relevant studies from other sources, both recent and looking back into the past, and of reviews of book publications relevant to researchers in the field of medicinal plant research via our regular feature, the Janus Corner. In this issue, a recent publication by an author of a series of books on Australian medicinal plants is reviewed. This book has more than regional significance, and is interesting reading for everyone with an interest in medicinal plants and the history of ethnopharmacological discovery. I invite the submission of short Janus Corner

notifications from our readership for publication in future issues. This forum provides an opportunity to make our readership aware of important publications in other sources that may be relevant and noteworthy for their studies, to review books, websites or recent conferences, or even for letters to the editor. Indeed, if any of our readers who is attending the Petra symposium wishes to review the symposium for the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications, I would be interested in hearing from you, either via email, or in person at the symposium. We have also maintained the medicinal plant photo section in this issue. I would also like to invite readers to consider contributing to this section. Furthermore, I have included a listing of upcoming events to keep readers up to date with future conferences and meetings. I invite conference organisers to contact me with the details of your event so that I can publicise it in this section.

With our next issue, we will return to our normal format, with the publication of quality studies submitted in the regular way. Whilst I have already received and processed several manuscripts for the next issue, I invite submission of further original studies and review articles for publication in the January-March 2013 issue of Pharmacognosy Communications.