

## The Janus Corner



This occasional section within the journal surveys visions and achievements, often not on the main track of the developing biomedical sciences, but all relating to discoveries and developments of medicinals – both ancient and modern. What they have in common, in one way or another, is providing further background and glances around the edges of the core discipline of Pharmacognosy, as it has been and continues to evolve within our times.

## Plants of the Genus *Terminalia* have High Antioxidant Content and Potent Antiproliferative Activity

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The genus *Terminalia* comprise over 250 species and are well-documented for their use in traditional (Ayurveda) medicines.<sup>1</sup> Investigations into the medicinal potential of these plants has revealed that they not only contain numerous anti-inflammatory and antibacterial compounds<sup>2-7</sup> but can prevent the development of cancers, as well as the induction of apoptosis of cancerous cells.<sup>8</sup> Recently, an article that was written by Cock and Cheesman<sup>8</sup> that summarises the available research on *Terminalia* spp. from a pharmacognostic standpoint. Focusing on the phytochemical profiles of these plants, as well as their therapeutic properties with respect to cancer proliferation, the review is a well-written paper and is a great resource for researchers and casual readers alike. The authors look at the applications to cancers and other conditions, the phytochemical profile (and antioxidant contents) of plants within the genus, including *T. ferdinandiana*, whose fruit are one of the richest natural sources of ascorbic acid. The chapter highlights the relationship between oxidative stress and cancer and explains the different biological compounds contained within *Terminalia* spp. that could contribute to preventing the formation of cancers. Finally, the review summarises the key points of the chapter, effectively collating the chapter through a series of dot points. Overall, this review is an informative read and offers a wonderful tool for both scientists and recreational plant enthusiasts.

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