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Essentials of Botanical Extraction

Principles and Applications

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Foreword by Sarker

I am absolutely delighted to learn that Dr Subhash C. Mandal, a distinguished scientist in the area of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, and two other learned coauthors from his team have presented us with a useful reference book that encompasses various principles and applications associated with botanical extraction.

As the title, Essentials of Botanical Extraction – Principles and Applications, implies, this book integrates insights regarding several conventional and modern extraction methods pertinent to extraction of botanicals, and demonstrates the importance of the choice of appropriate extraction methods for drug discovery and development from botanical sources. It also covers various mathematical models and chemometric aspects in relation to extraction. This book is replete with several practical examples, suitable diagrams and figures, and is easy to follow.

The book comprises 10 well-written chapters, starting with a basic introduction (Chapter 1) and ending with Chapter 10, which covers aspects of profiling crude extracts for rapid identification of bioactive compounds. Although the book mainly focuses on various extraction technologies and methods, it also incorporates chapters on various related matters—for example, Chapter 6 deals with identification strategies of phytochemicals. The profundity of this book relies on the fact that the authors have perfectly utilized their own experience and knowledge in this area of research, and also captured contemporary relevant literature. This book is certainly a valuable addition to currently available classical well-known books in this area, e.g., Phytochemical Methods (By J.B., Harborne), and Natural Products Isolation (Eds: Sarker, S.D. and Nahar, L.).

It is my pleasure to provide this foreword and to recommend this valuable book to all, experienced or novice, who have been involved in research with botanicals.

Professor Satyajit D. Sarker

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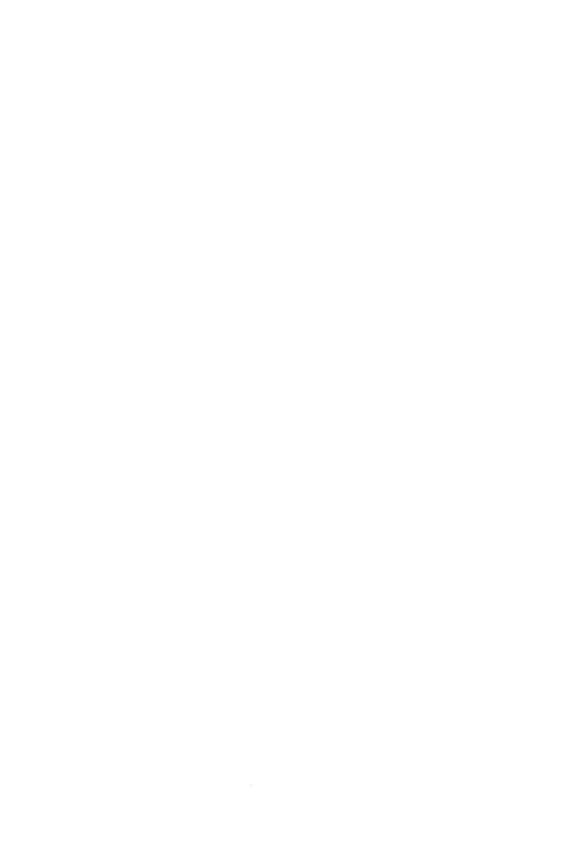
Foreword by Verpoorte

"What you see is what you extract"

Recently we wrote an editorial for a special issue of Phytochemical Analysis on metabolomics with the above mentioned title (Choi and Verpoorte, 2014). In fact the extraction is the most crucial step in any process concerning analysis and isolation of natural products as well as in the use of medicinal plants as such. This book deals with all the aspects involved from harvesting to possible final analyses of the extracts in quite a comprehensive way. In biochemistry and molecular biology, extraction plays a major role for which highly standardized methods are used and in case of the latter field even standard kits are used for DNA and RNA extraction. Genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics are built upon such a solid basis. Unfortunately such an extraction platform does not exist for small molecules, because in contrast with the mentioned omics. where the targeted macromolecules have similar physical properties, the small molecules cover a very wide range of chemo-diversity and thus of physicochemical properties. As a result there is no single extraction method that can be applied to extract all small molecules from a biological sample. This is a major factor hampering the development of public databases for metabolomics. What solvent to choose is a major concern, as none is able to extract both polar water soluble compounds. Moreover, poorly soluble compounds will be present in an extract at saturation level, but that does not allow a proper quantitation, as the real amount present in the plant could be of higher magnitudes. This book is a rich source of all relevant information to help developing the right protocol for an extraction, from micro to macro scale. But it even goes a step further as it also takes in consideration the preextraction steps. To develop an optimal extraction for any application, one has to deal with many interconnected variables. To be able to deal with such complexity it is necessary to use design of experiment software; the book indeed introduces this approach as an important research tool. Also methods to analyze the extracts for the presence of various phytochemicals are reviewed. So I think the authors did a great job in covering all these aspects; this book will be an indispensable standard work for any person and any laboratory interested in studying natural products, not only in plants, but in any organism!

Prof. Dr Rob Verpoorte

Natural Products Laboratory, IBL, Leiden University
The Netherlands



Preface

Today when different chromatographic methods can provide high resolution of complex mixtures of almost every matrix, from gases to biological macromolecules, and detection limits down to few nanograms or below, the whole advanced analytical process still can be wasted if an unsuitable sample preparation or extraction method has been applied before the sample reaches the chromatographic system. A poorly prepared botanical extract is sufficient to jeopardize even the most powerful chromatographic detection system. The first step in the qualitative and quantitative analysis of medicinal plant constituents is the "extraction" and it is an important step in studies involving the discovery of bioactive compounds from plant materials. Unfortunately, even though most of the research in medicinal plants begins with extraction, but still today not much attention has been paid to this crucial step. Most people in the world perform botanical extraction every day, without bothering about it, when they make a cup of tea, coffee, or other beverage made with hot water or milk. Even scientists working with medicinal plants often carry out extraction as a casual step considering it as only a necessary step toward the more exciting stages of fractionation and isolation and thus the entire focus shifts toward the greed of ending up with a new compound.

A few moments spent thinking about extraction is amply rewarded when one considers what is happening and how this affects the constituents and their amounts in the extract obtained. If extraction is not performed judiciously the subsequent work and results obtained are misleading and this creates a shaky foundation for further studies utilizing them. Moreover, just immediately after extraction another question that comes haunting to the natural product scientists is regarding the postextraction operations which ultimately pave the way for a new bioactive(s). In such a situation dependency on serendipity is heavily relied upon.

The 10 major chapters of this book which is an amalgamation of our research experience will address these issues; trying to explore natural products research from a different prospective so that the dependency on serendipity is reduced and the same can be turned into planned happenstance. The book for the first time tries to link chemometric strategies to the science of optimized and robust botanical extractions. Through this book, we also have tried to show how technology and environment can complement each other by bringing to the readers the principles and applications of green extraction technologies so that

xvi Preface

with the advancement of science and technology we still can keep the earth a better place to live in for our future generations.

We humbly seize this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to different national and international funding agencies to support us in our journey of natural products research with the aim to find a magical silver bullet against human sufferings. We are also thankful to our respective organizations for their continuous infrastructural and scientific support. Sincere thanks are due to our research team members. Finally we express our deep gratitude to our family members for being supportive in times of stress in compiling this book.

Subhash C. Mandal Vivekananda Mandal Anup Kumar Das

Contents

Foreword by Sarker Foreword by Verpoorte Preface	xi xiii xv	
1. Introduction		
1.1 Older Strategies1.2 Contemporary Strategies1.3 Advantages1.4 Challenges	2 2 3 4	
2. History and Background on the Use of Natural Products Obtained from Plants as Therapeutic Agents		
2.1 A General Overview 2.2 Drug Usage during the Prehistoric Period	7	
2.3 Developments and Drug Usage during Ancient	8	
Times/Pre-Hellenic Civilizations 2.4 Drug Discovery and Development during the Middle Ages	9 14	
2.5 Developments and Drug Usage during the Last Phases of the	45	
Middle Ages Further Reading	15 17	
3. Botanicals as a Screening Source of New Drugs Past Success Stories and Present-Day Concerns	:	
3.1 Historic Role of Botanicals	19	
3.2 Botanicals as Sources of New Leads during 1984–2014 Further Reading	31 33	
4. What All Should Know about Plant Drugs		
4.1 Role of Plants in Drug Development4.1.1 Plant Secondary Metabolites as Potent Leads for	36	
Pharmacologically Active Compounds 4.1.2 Plant Derived Extracts Currently under Clinical Trials	36 45	

vi Contents

	4.2 Factors Thought to be the Reason for Declining Interest			
		in Bota	anicals	48
		4.2.1	Ethical Issues and Related Complications	48
		4.2.2	Nonavailability of Materials According to Market	
			Demands	48
		4.2.3	Difficulties in Obtaining Authenticated Plant Materials	49
		4.2.4	Problems Associated with the Measurement of Biological	
			Activities of Extracts	49
		4.2.5	Time Constraints	49
		4.2.6	the state of the s	50
		4.2.7	Natural Products Obtained from Plants Lack Desired	
			Biophysical Properties	50
		4.2.8	Problem of Rediscovering of an Already Known	
			Compound	50
		4.2.9	Discovery and Development of Natural Products from	
			Botanicals is Considered to be a Slow Process and	
			Does Not Match the Pace of High throughput screening	50
	4.3		aches and Strategies to Improve the Status of Drug	4.5
			very from Botanicals	51
		4.3.1	Adoption of the Prefractionation Technique	51
		4.3.2 4.3.3	Screening Assay Techniques	52
		4.3.3	Differential Smart Screening Technique for Activity Profiling of Extracts	52
		4.3.4	Chemically Engineering an Extract	52
		4.3.5	Amalgamation of In silico Screening Approach with	32
		7.5.5	Natural Products	53
	4.4	Appro	aches in Medicinal Plant Selection Prior to Extraction	53
		4.4.1	Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology Approach	53
		4.4.2	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	56
		4.4.3	Random Approach	56
		4.4.4	Ecological Approach or Field Observations	56
		4.4.5	Zoopharmacognosy Approach	57
	4.5	An Ov	erview on Pre-Extraction Techniques	57
		4.5.1	O The state of the	58
		4.5.2	Plant Authentication and Herbarium Preparation	59
		4.5.3		59
		4.5.4	Size Reduction and Homogenization	60
		4.5.5	Storage	61
		Furthe	r Reading	61
5.	Fxt	ractio	on of Botanicals	
	5.1	Introd		63
	5.2		standing the Link between Botanical Extraction and	
			Standardization	67
		5.2.1	Need for Standardization	67
		5.2.2	New Analytical Techniques for Standardization	68

Contents	vii
----------	-----

	5.3	General Extraction Approaches and Theories	68
		5.3.1 Classical Approaches for the Extraction of Analytes from	
		Aqueous Sample	68
		5.3.2 Classical Approaches for the Extraction of Analytes	-
		from Solid Sample	72
	5.4	Factors Affecting Extraction of Botanicals	78
		5.4.1 Plant Material Related Issue	78
		5.4.2 Solvent Characteristics	79
		5.4.3 Manufacturing Related Factors Further Reading	82 82
		rurtier Reading	02
6.	Cla	ssification of Extraction Methods	
	6.1	Classification of Various Nonconventional Extraction	
		Techniques	84
		6.1.1 Analytical Extraction Methods	84
		6.1.2 Preparative Extraction Methods	122
	6.2	Removal of Unwanted and Interfering Components after	
		Extraction	134
		Further Reading	136
	0-	timization Hains Design of Functionantal	
	Ap	timization Using Design of Experimental proach	
	Ap	proach Introduction	137
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know	139
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design	139 139
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response	139 139 140
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor	139 139 140 140
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor	139 139 140 140 140
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization	139 140 140 140 141
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication	139 140 140 140 141 141
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking	139 140 140 140 141 142 142
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface	139 140 140 140 141 141
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking	139 139 140 140 140 141 142 142
	Ap	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects	139 140 140 140 141 142 142 142
	7.1 7.2	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model	139 139 140 140 141 142 142 142 142
	7.1 7.2	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects Issues Addressed through Experimental Design	139 139 140 140 141 142 142 142 144 144
	7.1 7.2	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects Issues Addressed through Experimental Design 7.3.1 Screening Phase 7.3.2 Optimization Phase RSM as a Tool for Optimization in MAE	139 139 140 140 141 142 142 142 144 144 144
	7.1 7.2	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects Issues Addressed through Experimental Design 7.3.1 Screening Phase 7.3.2 Optimization Phase RSM as a Tool for Optimization in MAE RSM as a Tool for Optimization in Supercritical Fluid	139 140 140 141 142 142 142 144 144 144 149
	7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects Issues Addressed through Experimental Design 7.3.1 Screening Phase 7.3.2 Optimization Phase RSM as a Tool for Optimization in MAE RSM as a Tool for Optimization in Supercritical Fluid Extraction	139 140 140 140 141 142 142 142 144 144 144
	7.1 7.2 7.3	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects Issues Addressed through Experimental Design 7.3.1 Screening Phase 7.3.2 Optimization Phase RSM as a Tool for Optimization in MAE RSM as a Tool for Optimization in Supercritical Fluid Extraction RSM as a Tool for Optimization in Pressurized Liquid	139 139 140 140 141 142 142 142 144 144 149 151
	7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5	Introduction Terminologies We Need to Know 7.2.1 Experimental Design 7.2.2 Response 7.2.3 Factor 7.2.4 Level of a Factor 7.2.5 Randomization 7.2.6 Replication 7.2.7 Blocking 7.2.8 Response Surface 7.2.9 Model 7.2.10 Effects Issues Addressed through Experimental Design 7.3.1 Screening Phase 7.3.2 Optimization Phase RSM as a Tool for Optimization in MAE RSM as a Tool for Optimization in Supercritical Fluid Extraction	139 140 140 141 142 142 142 144 144 144 149

viii Contents

8.	Ide	ntification Strategies of Phytocompounds	
	8.1 8.2	Identification Strategy for Volatile Compounds Identification Strategy of Nonvolatile Compounds	165 166
	8.3	Identification of Known Compounds Using Reference Standards	166
	8.4	Identification of Known Compounds Without Reference Standards	168
	8.5	Identification of Compounds with Unknown Structures	168
	8.6	The Stages in Structural Elucidation	169
		Further Reading	171
9.	Qu	alitative Phytochemical Screening	
	9.1	Detection of Alkaloids	173
		9.1.1 Thin Layer Chromatography Detection of Alkaloids	174
		9.1.2 Solvent System	174
	0.0	9.1.3 Chemical Tests for Specific Alkaloids	175
	9.2	Detection of Glycosides 9.2.1 TLC Detection	176 176
	9.3	Detection of Flavonoids	177
	3.3	9.3.1 TLC Detection	177
	9.4	Detection of Coumarin Drugs	177
		9.4.1 TLC Detection	178
	9.5	Detection of Essential Oils	178
		9.5.1 TLC Detection	178
	9.6	Detection of Carbohydrates	179
	9.7		179
	9.8	with a world a little of the l	180
	9.9	Detection of Steroids	180
		Detection of Tannins and Phenolic Compounds	180
	9.11	Spray Reagents Further Reading	181 185
10.		ofiling Crude Extracts for Rapid Identification Bioactive Compounds	
		Introduction	188
		Techniques Routinely Employed in Dereplication Study	188
	10.2	10.2.1 Separation Techniques	188
		10.2.2 Spectroscopic and Hyphenated Techniques	190
		10.2.3 Database Searching	193
	10.3	Stages where Dereplication is Applied during Traditional and	
		Modern Approaches of Drug Discovery	194
		10.3.1 Traditional Approach	194
		10.3.2 Bioassay-Guided Isolation Approach	194
		10.3.3 Structure Rased Derenlication-Driven Strategy	196

Contents	ix

	10.4 Construction and Characterization of Extract Libraries	198	
	10.4.1 Crude Extract Library	198	
	10.4.2 Prefractionated (Semipure) Library 10.4.3 Purified Natural Product Library		
	Further Reading	201	
	To B	202	
Index		203	
	and the second		