

Study of Market Samples of *Khulanjan* for Their Quality Standards

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Abstract

Adulteration and substitution are common in commercial samples of many drugs due to resemblance between two or more drugs which are easily mixed with one another giving confounding characters. Consequently, market samples of some of the drugs are available as either completely substituted or a mixed bag of genuine and substituted drugs. In view of regular use of *Khulanjan* in Unani Medicine and reports of its being admixed with spurious or low quality substitutes, present study was undertaken to study its three samples, two collected from market and one obtained from natural habitat. Pharmacognostical parameters were applied to all the samples to ascertain authenticity of commercially available samples by comparing them with the standard sample. The study consisted of macroscopic, physicochemical and phytochemical studies and spectrophotometry of all the samples. Findings of the study in most of the parameters were found almost similar indicating market samples of the drug to be genuine.

Key words: Unani Medicine, Crude drugs, Market samples, Adulteration, Standardization; *Khulanjan*

Introduction

Centuries old practice of Unani medicine is testimony to its therapeutic potential. It uses drugs of natural sources preferably that of plant origin. Traditional medical systems including Unani medicine that use natural drugs are facing serious problems pertaining to the availability of authentic drugs. Commercially available samples of some of plant drugs are frequently found adulterated or substituted. Growing awareness and increased use of herbal drugs have resulted in injudicious exploitation of wild sources of certain drugs which favored adulteration and substitution. Adulteration and substitution are not only creating problems to physicians and researchers but are also compromising the efficacy of a number of important drugs.

Crude herbal drug market has been in the domain of non medical men, who themselves and the workers they employed to collect the drugs have little idea of identity and quality of drugs and remain least bothered for such attributes. Such practices put a question mark on the authenticity of the crude drugs available in the market. It has been observed that many samples of plant drugs procured from different markets do not match with the description given in the literature. And it becomes a matter of great concern when entirely different samples are available in the market in place of a genuine drug (Bonakdar, 2002).

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