

Morphological classification

Crude drugs are arranged according to the morphological or external characters of the plant parts or animal parts, i.e. which part of the plant is used as a drug, e.g. leaves, roots, stem, etc.

- Seeds-nux-vomica, strophanthus, Isabgol, castor
- Leaves-Senna, Digitalis, Vasaka, Eucalyptus
- Barks-cinchona, kurchi, cinnamon, Quillaia
- Woods-Quassia, sandalwood, Sassafras, Red sanders
- Roots-Rauwolfia, Ipecacuanha, Aconite, Jalap
- Rhizomes-Turmeric, Ginger, Valerin, Podophyllum
- Flowers-Clove, Pyrethrum, Artemisia, Saffron
- Fruits-Coriander, colocynth, Fennel, Bael
- Entire drugs-Ephedra, Ergot, cantharides, Belladonna

The unorganized drugs are dried latex, gums, extracts, etc.

Eg.

- Dried latices-opium, Gutta-Percha, Papain
- Resin and Resin combinations-Balsam of Tolu, Myrrh, Asafoetida, Benzoin
- Dried juices-Aloe, Kino, Red gum
- Gums-Acacia, Tragacanth, Ghattigum, Guar gum
- Dried extracts-Gelatin, Catechu, Agar, Curare

Merits:

- It is helpful to identify and detect adulteration.
- This system of classification is more convenient for practical study and especially when the chemical nature of the drug is not clearly understood.

Demerits:

- There is no correlation between chemical constituents and therapeutic actions.
- Repetition of drugs or plants occurs