

ABSTRACT

The ethnobotanical knowledge including the local / common names, part used, pharmacological actions and recipes for the uses of some of the wild and cultivated plant species found in Lahore city was documented by surveying the different areas and interviewing through questionnaire the qualified hakims, shopkeepers, buyers and elderly people during the year 2008. A total of 230 plant species belonging to 80 families, seventy one dicotyledonous families (88.75%), seven monocotyledonous (8.75%) and one each of gymnosperms (1.25%) and ferns (1.25%) was documented. Family Asteraceae was the richest one with 21 medicinal plant species. Regarding the habit of the documented plants, herbs, undershrubs, climbing herbs and one parasite, *Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb. comprised 57.4%, shrubs, small trees 18.26% and trees 24.34%. The documented plants included the cultivated plants (53.04%), wild plants (38.26%) and the plants both wild and cultivated or planted (8.7%). The two famous markets of crude drugs, Akbari market and Papar market including 50 pansari stores and vendors of permanent or temporary stalls were thoroughly surveyed and availability of plants of ethnopharmacological values was documented. The drugs were lying in the markets since 3 — 4 years and comprised of about 70% import items and 30% local items. The factors like humidity, light and temperature caused the deterioration of quality of drug plant materials due to the growth of bacteria and fungi on them, especially on leaves and roots. Nematodes, mites, beetles, cockroaches, ants and rats were found either in some of the sacs of vegetable drugs or wandering near the drug materials in the store houses and shops. The cytomorphological and anatomical study of the four drug plant materials collected from the market, viz: Berge-henna, Banafsha, Moosli sinbhal and Persioshan and the samples of their mother plants revealed certain similarities and differences. Many of the anatomical details appeared to be different from each other in case of Moosli sinbhal and root-barkroot of *Bombax ceiba* Linn., this might be due to adulteration or admixturing by some other material. The retailers, hakims and some leading dawakhanas like Hamdard, Qarshi, Ajmal, etc. were reported to be the major purchasers of the crude drugs available in these markets.