

Pharmacognosy (from Greek φάρμακον - medicine, poison and γνῶσις - knowledge) - a section of pharmacy, studying medicinal raw materials of plant and animal origin and some products of their primary processing.

Plants have been used as medicines since antiquity. The term Pharmacognosy was first used by Al-Biruni (973-1048) in his work "Pharmacognosy". The founder of Pharmacognosy in Europe is considered to be the ancient Greek physician Dioscorides (I century AD), whose book "Materia medica" served as a guide to Pharmacognosy until the XIX century; new directions were developed by Galen and Paracelsus. Arab medieval medicine made a great contribution to the development of Pharmacognosy.

In Russia in the XVI and XVII century began to create herbalists and medical books, which laid the foundation for the development of domestic pharmacognosy. In Russia in the late XVII - early XVIII century appeared original works on pharmacognosy such as recipe books and manuals on the use of medicinal plants, in 1778 the first Russian pharmacopoeia "Pharmacopoea Rossica" was published. The works of Nestor Ambodik-Maksimovich "Physician's substanceology" and Alxandr Nelyubin "Pharmacography", which appeared in the end of XVIII and beginning of XIX centuries, can be considered as prototypes of future manuals on pharmacognosy.

In the middle of the XIX century, due to the expansion of research on the study of the chemical composition of medicinal plants, the emergence of new methods of determining the authenticity of samples of plant raw materials, identifying impurities and adulterants, establishing standards of good quality of raw materials there were prerequisites on the basis of which Julius Trapp separated pharmacognosy from the general course of pharmacy in an independent discipline and compiled the first study guides on it (1858; 1868-1869). A great contribution to the development of pharmacognosy was made by Vladimir Tikhomirov, who carried out original studies of some plants growing in our country and the tropics. Tikhomirov created a number of fundamental manuals on pharmacognosy (1885, 1888-1890, 1900).

Modern domestic pharmacognosy has become the basis for the practical development of vast plant wealth and their use for the needs of health care. To solve this problem, various forms of scientific search and research are used: study of folk medicine experience; mass chemical study of plants directly in the field to identify in them certain groups of pharmacologically active substances; use of existing phylogenetic relationships between plants. The study of the experience of traditional medicine, conducted on the basis of critical analysis of the collected information, allows the initial selection of plant objects for further phytochemical and pharmacological study. The field method mainly involves qualitative phytochemical analysis, which allows the selection of the most promising plants from the total mass of tested plants.

Man began to study the medicinal properties of plants at the same time as he was eating certain parts of certain plants. This first knowledge became the basis for the treatment of injuries and wounds. The foundations of pharmacognosy stem from folk observation, verified by many years of practice and fixed in knowledge and prohibitions handed down from generation to generation. Knowledge gained through long experience, phenomenological manifestations of the action of LR, unequal among different tribes and peoples in the places of their existence, far outpaced scientific research.

All peoples made their great contribution to the accumulation of this empirical knowledge: African tribes, ancient Egyptians and Greeks, Arabs, Chinese, Tibetans, Indians, Indians of America and others. The greatest representative of ancient Roman pharmacy and

medicine is C. Galen (131-201 AD), who initiated the production of extractive preparations called Galenic. In the Middle Ages in Europe, the works of Theophrastus von Hohenheim, better known as Paracelsus (1493-1541), were of great importance and contributed to the development of phytochemistry.

Geographical discoveries and voyages to India and America gave a new impetus to the development of pharmacognosy. In Russia, in the pre-Petrine era and for many years to come, the knowledge of medicines and medicinal products for healing was preserved, passed down through the generations in oral or written form and used primarily by women and monks. Women more than men had to deal with medical problems, starting from the birth of children and up to the death of the elderly, sometimes there was a need to treat and nurse those who were wounded in battles or injured in hunting or in the labour activity of male family members. Special knowledge was possessed by grandmothers-physicians. Later, with the development of trade and crafts in Kievan Rus, the profession of "lechtsa" - doctor - appeared. With the development of writing, printed herbalists and medical books began to spread, and the first schools of physicians appeared. A huge contribution was made by the reforms of Peter the Great: zelaynye shops and pharmacy gardens were created, the Botanical Garden appeared in St. Petersburg, orders were given to collect medicinal herbs, to create state pharmacies.