PHARM.D • YEAR 2

Pharmacognosy & Phytopharmaceuti

CHAPTER 3

Classification of Crude Drugs

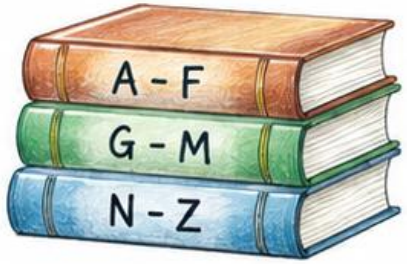
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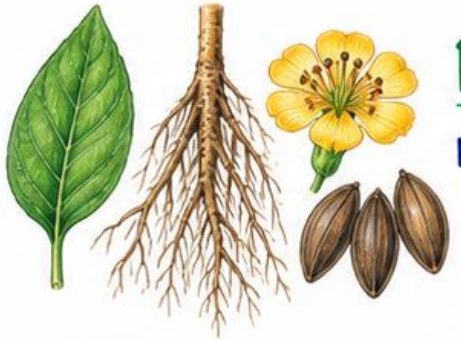
DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Why classify crude drugs?

Classification organizes drugs according to a chosen feature.
It supports identification, comparison, learning, research and standardization.



Name:
alphabetical classification.



Plant part:
morphological classification.



Biological relationship:
taxonomical classification.





Constituents:
chemical classification.

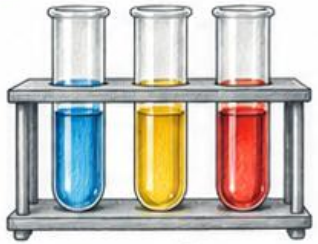




Action:
pharmacological classification.



Chemistry with taxonomy:
chemotaxonomical classification.

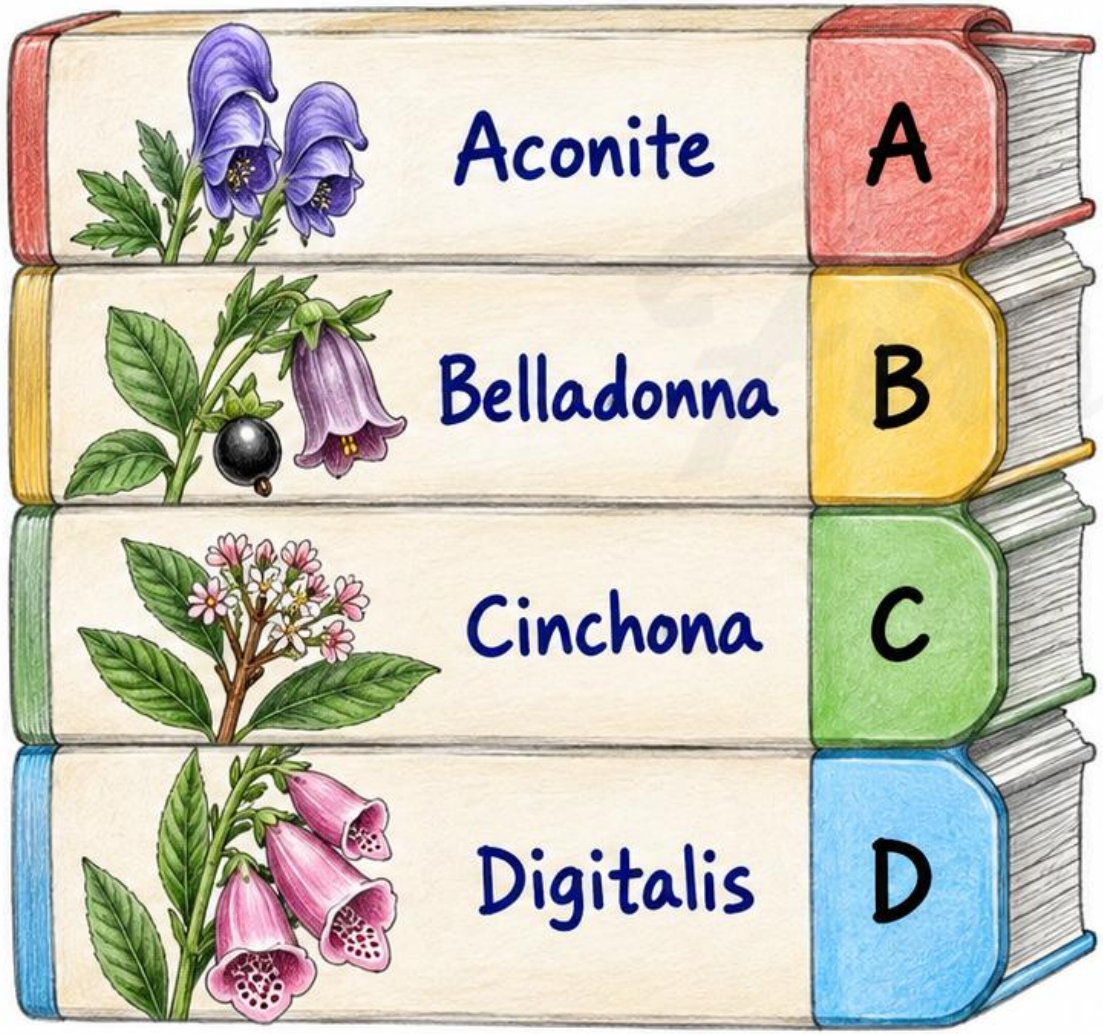


Protein reactivity:
serotaxonomical classification.

Each system answers a different question.

Alphabetical classification

Drugs are arranged by common, botanical or official name.
Aconite, Belladonna, Cinchona and Digitalis illustrate alphabetical order.



Advantage:
rapid lookup and simple organization.

Limitation:
the order does not explain chemical composition, biological relationship or therapeutic action.

Used in pharmacopoeias, indexes and reference works such as The Merck Index.

The naming convention must remain consistent within the reference.

Morphological classification: vegetative parts

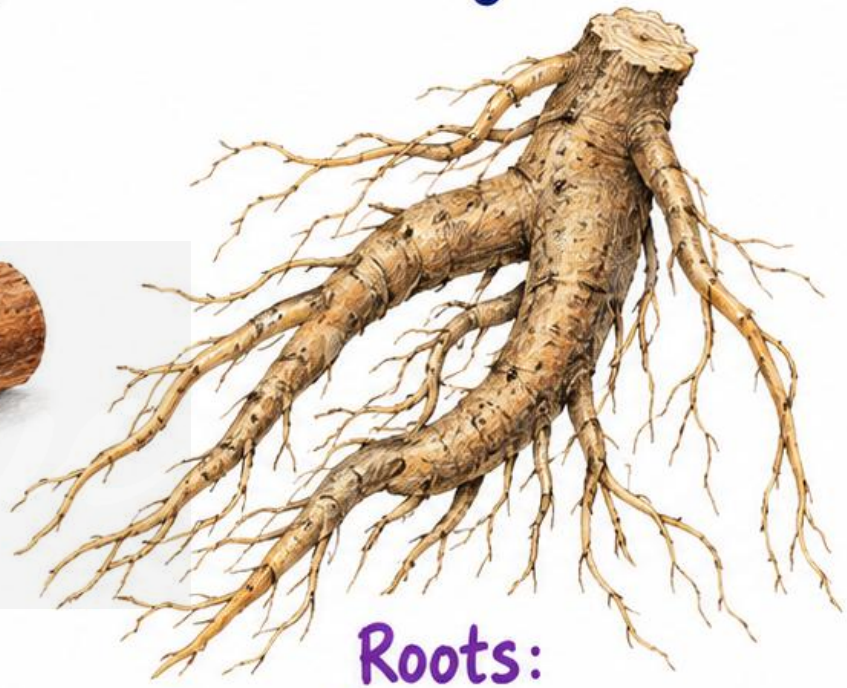
Morphological classification uses the plant part supplied as the drug.



Leaves:
Senna, Tea and Digitalis.



Barks:
Cinchona and Cinnamon.



Roots:
Rauwolfia and Liquorice.

Visible form helps recognition and crude-drug identification.
This system does not establish the active constituents or therapeutic effects.
Powdering can obscure the original plant part.

Morphological classification: further drug parts

Flowers and floral parts

Clove is a dried flower bud.
Saffron consists of dried stigmas.



Clove



Saffron

Seeds

Nux vomica and Isabgol are examples.



Nux vomica



Isabgol

Fruits

Fennel and Amla are examples.



Fennel



Amla

Herbs and aerial parts

Lobelia herb and Ephedra aerial stems illustrate this group.



Lobelia herb



Ephedra aerial stems

The precise part named in the drug specification matters.

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