Present Attempt
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The practice of Unani Tibb in India, many a time, was a family occupation. Records are available of families who generation after generation produced hakims, the son being taught by his father, or by a near relative. Even now, some practising hakims can trace their ancestry of hakims for up to two hundred years or even more. Due to urbanisation and dwindling of forest resources the physicians - hakims of Unani system are no longer a self contained unit collecting and preparing his own medicines as before. However, even today there are some 'Khandani hakims' who collect the plant material from fields and prepare their own medicine, especially from rural areas.

Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has focused attention of standardisation and survey of Medicinal Plants particularly in view of the fact that genuine natural drugs are the basic necessity of a dependable therapy. India is rich in medicinal plant wealth. Different forest regions of the country are continuously surveyed for collection of Unani medicinal plants. Exploring and reporting of folk medicinal claims is also part of this programme. Documentation of folk knowledge has become utmost important.

Fortunately many of my relatives practice hakimi and except few most of them have not received any formal Unani education. The knowledge of medicines, they prescribe to the patient, is the one they have received as a family heritage. And more over, they collect the fresh herbs from forest and prepare their medicine.
In the global perspective, there is shift towards the use of medicine of herbal origin, as the dangers and shortcomings of the modern medicine have become apparent. It is therefore essential to document the knowledge about herbal medicines from all sources. Taking the advantage of my relations, a survey of Unani - or better to say, a survey of muslim folk medicine - was undertaken. The result presented here is first hand information.

It is equally important to characterise and standardise the drugs thus collected. Therefore an attempt has been made here to study the Macromorphology, Micromorphology and Phytochemical profile of certain drug plants.