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Analysis of major and trace elements in homemade herbal medicines

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A case is taken up to study the accumulation of trace elements in homemade medicine with the help of herbal medicinal plants, namely *Aegle marmelouz*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Trigonella foenum-graecum*, prickly chaff flower, *Colocasia esculenta*, etc. The common people of North-East Karnataka region are traditional and hence they adopted homemade/traditional items. One such type is homemade medicine for treatment for different types of disease viz., cold, cough, diabetes, fever, judies, skin disease etc. The above said plants were collected in consultation with practitioners called Desi Vaidya's. The collected medicinal plants were dried in room without any ventilation which is free from dust. A fine powder was prepared with the help of grinder and mesh and using the oven about 10 gm of sample was made available in the form of ash. The standard solutions were prepared for all these ash samples for major/minor and trace elemental analysis. A single beam iCE 3000 Series spectrometers was used for analysis which is completely automatic in control and has a capacity for all element analysis. The whole system is controlled via a data station running thermo scientific iCE SOLAAR software which runs under a Windows® operating system. This study reveals that fourteen trace elements were detected by the AAS viz., Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mo and Cd among these, the elements like Ca, Fe, K, Al and Mg shows higher concentrations in some herbal medicinal plants. From the analysis of medicinal plants, it is noticed that the collected herbal medicinal plants are very useful for preparation of homemade medicine; the detected trace elemental contents are below the WHO permissible limit (1984-2005) values. Further, the biochemical studies of the samples are under progress.

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