

Plants for the Future -Drug discovery-

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Natural products are a constant source of potentially active compounds for the treatments of various disorders. The Middle East and tropical regions are believed to have the richest supplies of natural products in the world. Plant derived secondary metabolites have been used by humans to treat acute infections, health disorders and chronic illness for tens of thousands of years. Only during the last 100 years have natural products been largely replaced by synthetic drugs. Estimates of 200,000 natural products in plant species have been revised upward as mass spectrometry techniques have developed.

