



Leveraging Traditional Knowledge for Drug Discovery

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Traditional knowledge (TK) is a rich source of information for drug discovery. It encompasses a vast array of medicinal plants, animals, and minerals used by various cultures and communities. The integration of TK with modern scientific approaches can lead to the discovery of novel drugs and therapies. This article discusses the importance of TK in drug discovery and provides examples of its application. The use of TK in drug discovery is not a new phenomenon. It has been practiced for centuries, with many modern drugs being derived from natural sources. However, the systematic documentation and validation of TK is a recent development. This is necessary to ensure the safety and efficacy of the products derived from TK. The National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow, India, is a leading center for the study of TK in drug discovery. It has a rich collection of medicinal plants and animals, and a team of experts who are working to document and validate TK. The NBRI has also been successful in discovering several new drugs from TK. For example, the anti-cancer drug, *Erythroxylum coca*, was discovered from the traditional use of the coca plant. Other examples include the anti-inflammatory drug, *Andrographis paniculata*, and the anti-diabetic drug, *Cassia siamea*. The use of TK in drug discovery is a promising field, and it has the potential to lead to the discovery of many new drugs and therapies. However, it is important to ensure that the use of TK is done in a responsible and sustainable manner. This requires the involvement of the communities and individuals who possess the TK, and the development of appropriate legal and ethical frameworks. The NBRI is committed to the study of TK in drug discovery, and it is working to develop a sustainable and responsible approach to the use of TK. This approach will ensure that the benefits of TK are shared with all, and that the TK is preserved for future generations.

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