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PLO4 Quality of herbal medicinal products (HMP) as the requirement for succesful phytopharmaceuticals

Gerhard Franz

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Regensburg, Regensburg , Germany.

Increased use of herbal medicinal products (HMP) in Europe requires a through review of appropriate guidelines to evaluate them for therapeutic benefits. The accepted quality management is laid down in the European Pharmacopoeia, where an increasing number of monographs for HMP is documented. Quality of HMP defines the optimal specifications for each compound by specifying one or more analytical procedures, which define qualitative (identification) and quantitative (limits for impurities and content of active ingredients) characteristics of the respective HMP. As a consequence of adulterations, specific identification methods have to be developed for each individual HMP. Contamination with organic compounds such as pesticides, heavy metals or microorganisms demonstrate the need for highly sensitive analytical procedures. Actually new methods are developed for the detection and limitation of mycotoxins (Aflatoxins, Ochratoxins) since HMP's from tropical areas are often shown to be contaminated with these toxic compounds. Due to the often demonstrated presence of heavy metals in many examples of HMP's, a new general method for heavy metal determination was established as a further important guideline. Finally, the quality of herbal extracts, which actually represents a large proportion of herbal medicines on the European market, was laid down in a frame monograph specifying the different types of extracts (quantified, standardised and other extracts) which are the basis for all future individual extract monographs. However, it is often difficult to attribute a specific extract to the newly proposed types, since the arguments for therapeutically active ingredients are often a matter of the current scientific discussions.



Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz

Prof. Gerhard Franz (1937) received his Diploma in Pharmacy by the University of Karlsruhe in 1963. He got his PhD at the Université de Fribourg (Switzerland) in 1966. In 1967 he did a postdoctoral training at the Department of Biochemistry of the University of California (Berkeley) to do his Post doc. After this, he has occupied different positions in several Universities: Université de Fribourg (Switzerland) Dept. of Biology (1970–1977); Full Professor of Pharmacognosy in the University of Regensburg (Germany, since 1977); Guest Professor University of Basel (Switzerland) and Grenoble (France).

Extra University activities: member of the Commission and chairman of the group of experts on Pharmacognosy of the German Pharmacopoeia, chairman of the group of experts 13B of the European Pharmacopoeia, member of Commission E of the BfArM (Bonn, Germany), member of the Scientific Council of the BfArM. Former President of the International Society for Medicinal Plant Research, he is co-editor of the journals *Planta Medica* and *Pharmazie*.

He has received the Egon Stahl Award (1985), Sebastian Kneipp Award (1994), Order of Merit of the FRG (1998), and he is corresponding member of the Royal Belgian Medicinal Society (1990) and the Academie Francaise de Pharmacie (1998), as well as honorary advisor of the Department of Health, Executive Yuan ROC, Taiwan (1999).