

Table 1: Examples of Conventional Drugs Derived from Plants*

Drug	Herb Common Name (Latin Name)	Action/Approved Use
Colchicine	Autumn crocus (<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>)	Anti-inflammatory
Digoxin/Lanoxin	Digitalis/foxglove (<i>Digitalis</i> spp.)	Cardiotonic/Positive inotropic
Tubocurarine	Curare (<i>Chondrodendron tomentosum</i>)	Neuromuscular blocker
Ephedrine	Ephedra (<i>Ephedra sinica</i>)	Sympathomimetic
Etoposide	Mayapple (<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>)	Antitumor
Physostigmine	Calabar bean (<i>Physostigma venenosum</i>)	Cholinesterase inhibitor (parasympathomimetic)
Reserpine	Rauwolfia (<i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i>)	Hypotensive
Scopolamine	Jimson weed (<i>Datura stramonium</i>) Duboisia (<i>Duboisia</i> spp.)	Antimuscarinic; antimotion sickness
Taxol®	Pacific yew (<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>)	Antitumor
Vincristine	Madagascar periwinkle (<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>)	Acute lymphocytic leukemia; non-Hodgkins lymphoma, etc.

* As of the mid 1980s, at least 119 plant-derived drugs were used in conventional medicine (Farnsworth et al., 1985). Taxol® and several others have been added since then.