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Chemistry of Dyes

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The worldwide demand for natural dyes is nowadays of great interest due to the increased awareness on therapeutic properties of natural dyes in public. Natural dyes are derived from naturally occurring sources such as plants, insects, animals and minerals. Several synthetic colorants have been banned because they cause allergy like symptoms or are carcinogens. Among all natural dyes, plant based pigments have wide range of medicinal values. Although known for a long time for dyeing as well as medicinal properties, the structures and protective properties of natural dyes have been recognized only in the recent past. Many of plants used for dye extraction are classified as medicinal and some of these have recently been shown to possess remarkable antimicrobial activity. The present review, describes the detail information about basic chemistry of the major pigments and their medicinal importance found in naturally occurring dye yielding plants, which are helpful to further development of pharmaceutical formulations.