

Ethnobotany Lab 9.

Identification of pharmaceutical plants

April 14th, 2011

Background

Plant organs used widely as medicines are: root (medicinal Latin name: *radix*), stem (*caulon*) and leaf (*folio*), fruits (*fructus*) and flowers (*flos*).

We have today pharmaceutically prepared (dried, melted etc.) organs of seven different plants:

[NOW WITH SOLUTION!]

- *Achillea millefolium*, Yarrow #2: inflorescences, leaves and stems
- *Althaea officinalis*, Common marshmallow #4: roots
- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, Bearberry #1: leaves
- *Echinacea purpurea*, Echinacea #6: leaves and stems
- *Filipendula ulmaria*, Meadowsweet #5: leaves and stems
- *Mentha piperita*, Peppermint #3: mostly leaves
- *Valeriana officinalis*, Valerian #7: roots

Assignment

The goals of today's lab are:

1. Choose **five** Petri dishes from seven
2. Using dissectiscope, find out **which organ** is in every dish: root, stem, leaf, flower or fruit?
Important: it is possible that more than one organ present!
3. In addition, you may guess which plant is inside
4. In your report, provide your guesses **with explanations**