

(Nancy Pollack) and tomatoes (Janet Long). Sheldon Aaronson's chapter on fungi gives a monumental list of all the major fungi eaten in the world.

Some chapters are notably weak. Hansjörg Küster tries to cover "Spices and Flavorings" in seven pages. His bibliography has only five items, four of them secondary sources. The chapter is based on the long-discredited idea that spices were used to mask the flavor of spoiled food. Quite apart from the economic absurdity of this (spices, worth their weight in gold, used to save a few cents on meat?), it would explain, if it were true, only the medieval European usage. But his argument neither holds here, for medieval European elites insisted on fresh meat, and would have been disgusted by our "aged" beef. Certainly, no one affluent enough to buy spices in the heavy spice-using regions of the world (Indonesia, Mexico, etc.) eats, or has to eat, spoiled food. More importantly, every cook knows that spices *bring out* the taste of foods. I have been the unlucky guinea pig in some trials of spices as concealers of spoiled food taste, and—trust me, dear reader—don't try it. The same author's chapter on rye, while at least accurate, is only three pages long, out of date, and confined largely to northern Europe in coverage. In fairness, his chapter on the history of North European food is very fine.

On the whole, readers can be safely directed to this book for up-to-date reviews of the literature, but readers must beware, especially of the shorter and less heavily referenced chapters. Sadly, in spite of the price of the book, it is too uneven and unreliable to serve as one's sole reference and must be used in conjunction with other standard sources. This said, the set provides so much that is hard to find elsewhere, and so many unique and up-to-date reviews, that it will remain a basic reference for some time to come.

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**Ethnobiology at the Millennium: Past Promise and Future Prospects.** Richard I. Ford (ed.). Anthropological Papers no. 91. Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan. Museum of Anthropology Publications, Ann Arbor. 2001. \$20.00 (paper). ISBN: 0-915703-50-5.

The papers in this volume are a result of the Presidents' Symposium at the annual meeting of the Society of Ethnobiology in Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 2000. All authors are former presidents of the society, with one exception: a former editor of the *Journal of Ethnobiology*. Similar in scope to Richard Ford's edited volume, *The Nature and Status of Ethnobotany* (Ford 1994), this book assesses where

ethnobiology has gone and where it is going. This is done in each president's semi-autobiographical and historical analysis of trends in ethnobiology.

Ford introduces the presidents' papers with "Ethnobiology at a Crossroads," a paper that covers the historical foundations and current trends in the field. The author reviews the table of contents of past journal issues to compile a table showing the trends in the field by sub-discipline. Not surprisingly, ethnobotany, ethnopharmacology, and paleoethnobotany lead the field with the most articles published in the journal. Zooarchaeology and folk classification are close behind, with conservation and ethnoecology drawing more attention in recent years. Unfortunately, ethnoentomology is not on the authors' lists. I consulted the index of the *Journal of Ethnobiology* (Thomas 2000) and found several articles on the subject, mostly the work of Posey (1981, 1983, 1986) in Brazil and that of Ramos-Elorduy de Conconi et al. (1984, 1988) in Mexico and an article on hallucinogenic ant consumption in south-central California (Groark 1996). Furthermore, chemical-ecological theories, having foundations in entomology, are being applied to human-plant interactions (Johns 1990) and should qualify as important components of the greater ethnobiological discourse. Ford goes on to discuss recent trends in ethnobiology, molecular archaeology, conservation biology, applied ethnobiology, environmental education and consultations in native legal cases.

The next four chapters discuss the importance of ethnobiology in answering questions about the human past. Elizabeth S. Wing covers the "Potentials of Zooarchaeology for Better Understanding of the Human Past" in a paper that discusses the history of the discipline and its possible roles in the future. Two papers, from Steven A. Weber and Karen R. Adams, are archaeobotanical case studies from South Asia and the southwestern U.S., respectively. This section closes with Paul Minnis rebutting the common perception that paleoethnobotany is irrelevant in "One Possible Future of Paleoethnobotany."

The second half of the book begins with a paper from Eugene S. Hunn, "An Ethnozoological Perspective on the Ethnobiological Enterprise." In this analysis the author covers the paradoxical case of ethnobotany drawing more attention than ethnozoology. Hunn analyzes the case with a familiar argument (see Hunn 1982) based on perceptual versus utilitarian perspectives. Cecil Brown follows with a case study of Amerindian nomenclature for "oak" and the relevance of linguistic ethnobiology. Catherine S. Fowler contributes a paper concerning ethnobiological methods, particularly as they apply to ethnography and linguistics. Nancy Turner delivers perhaps the most self-reflexive paper about ethnobotany in British Columbia and the role of the Society of Ethnobiology members in her career. This sets up the closing paper by Eugene N. Anderson who reviews the previous papers, adds his own autobiographical notes, and discusses the role of ethnobiology in solving problems related to resource management and conservation.

My main criticisms of this book are twofold. The book is heavy on the paleoethnobotanical and archeobotanical aspects of the discipline. And there seems to be nothing unifying about the papers that follow the chapters on ethnobiology and the human past. While the paper by Hunn is particularly insightful, the papers by Fowler, Brown, Turner, and Anderson are seemingly disparate. In summary, if the papers included in this volume were more balanced and represen-

tative of the various sub-disciplines in ethnobiology, the book would be stronger and of interest to a broader audience. Otherwise, this is a fine edition that examines the current status of ethnobiology and its historical foundations. It would be useful to use at the end of an introduction to ethnobiology graduate course and would work well with Minnis' (2000) recently published edited volume of selected articles from the journal. It is an inexpensive book that should attract readership among both Society members and readers of this journal.

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#### **Introdução à etnoentomologia: Considerações metodológicas e estudo de casos.**

(Introduction to Ethnoentomology: Methodological Considerations and Case Studies). Eraldo Medeiros Costa Neto. Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil. 2000. Pp. 131. ISBN: 85-7395-020-X.

This book is a compilation of short chapters: one of introduction, one of methodology, five that present case studies, and an epilogue. The book is an attempt to assemble and summarize the author's ethnoentomological works, some of which have appeared in the *Journal of Ethnobiology* (e.g., vol. 18(1):1-13; 1998) and other academic journals.

The introductory chapter does an excellent job summarizing the available