

BOOK REVIEW

Medicinal Plants: New Vistas of Research (Parts I and II). V.K. Singh and Shamima Hashmi (editors). Volumes X and XI of series, **Glimpses in Plant Research** (series editor, J.N. Govil). New Delhi, India: Today & Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers (24 B/5, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Karolbagh, New Delhi 110005), 1993. Part I-Pp. xi, 286. \$59.00 U.S. ISBN 1-55528-272-5 (U.S.A.), 81-7019-417-2 (India). Part II-Pp. xi, 287-570. \$59.00 U.S. ISBN 1-55528-273-3 (U.S.A.), 81-7019-418-0 (India).

The recent resurgence of interest in medicinal plants research is adequately supported by the material set forth in the present work. The publication has contributions by many experts from India and abroad on various aspects of medicinal plants and provides recent data concerning: (a) Ethnobotany: folk medicines used by tribals and rural population including preliminary clinical trials; (b) Pharmacognostic studies of traditional drugs; (c) Experimental cultivation and economics of commercially important drugs; (d) Biochemistry and biotechnology of plant products; (e) Botanical identification and standardization of drugs; (f) Cytogenetics, microbiology and biological control; (h) Environment and pollution studies.

There is an author and subject index; and also index of botanical binomials in each volume.

These volumes amply exhibit the outstanding interest and research that is current in India. The editors of this work are amongst those who are making India one of the outstanding countries in research into traditional medicine and the practical results that may follow scientific research from the chemical and pharmacological study of the medical plants of tribal peoples. Dr. Vinay Kumar Singh is Scientist-in-charge of the Survey of Medicinal Plants Unit of the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi), a taxonomist, economic botanist and ethnobotanist; he has been the recipient of several prestigious awards. Dr. (Ms.) Shamima Hashmi, a plant anatomist working as pharmacognosist in the capacity of Research Officer, is the author of 40 pharmacognostic papers. Dr. J.N. Govil (General Editor of the series), a geneticist, is currently working in the Agricultural Research Institute of New Delhi; he is the author of 70 research papers. It is a pleasure and an honour for me to salute these scientists for gathering and editing such a diversity of technical papers in one volume. It is another indication of the intensity of interest in ethnopharmacology in India—a fact that the rest of the world with ethnobotanical outlooks admires.

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