

BOOK REVIEW

Phytochemical Resources for Medicine and Agriculture. Herbert N. Nigg and David Seigler (editors). New York: Plenum Publishing Corporation, 1992. Pp. 445. \$95.00 (outside of United States: \$114.00). ISBN 0-306-44245-0.

The material in this book was presented in 1989 in a symposium held during the American Chemical Society meeting at Miami Beach, Florida, and sponsored by the Society for Economic Botany and the American Chemical Society Food and Natural Product section.

The editors state in the Preface, "we believe this work is the finest anywhere and that readers will find all of the chapters interesting, intriguing and educational." This reviewer certainly accepts this modest belief, as he is certain that anyone consulting the book will agree with its uniqueness and outstanding utility.

The contents comprise 13 contributions by 15 specialists: 1) An Historical Perspective of Ancient Poisons (H.G. Cutler); 2) Plants and Plant Products used in Mummification (A.R. David); 3) Plants Used Medicinally by Indigenous Peoples (W.H. Lewis); 4) Plants as Sources of Medicinally and Pharmaceutically Important Compounds (A.D. Kinghorn); 5) Socio-Economic Poisons: Khat, the Natural Amphetamine (R. Brenneisen and M.A. El Schly); 6) Antiparasitic Agents from Plants (R.P. Borres and J.M. Schaeffer); 7) Antifungal Compounds from Plants (J. Kuc); 8) Nematicidal Compounds from Plants (D.J. Chitwood); 9) Herbicidal Compounds from Higher Plants (H.G. Cutler); 10) (W.S. Bowers); 11) Natural Medicines are Natural Pesticides? (J.A. Duke); 12) Natural Toxicants in Foods (R.C. Beier and H.N. Nigg); and 13) Future for Natural Products (H.N. Nigg and S.S. Seigler).

It would be difficult to find a single volume with such a widespread selection of authentic articles on natural products.

Each contribution has a comprehensive bibliography. There is a taxonomic index, a chemical index and a subject index.

There can be no doubt that this volume will be a *vade mecum* to researchers in a wide span of scientific fields.

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