

## BOOK REVIEW

**Lista Anotada de las Plantas Medicinales de Uso Actual en el Estado de Quintana Roo, México.** Ma. T. Pulido Salas and L. Serralta Peraza. Centro de Investigaciones de Quintana Roo, Apartado Postal 424, 77000 Chetumal, Quintana Roo, México. [TEL.: (983) 21666 or 20115; FAX: (983) 20447] 1993. Pp. 105. No price given (paperback). ISBN 968-6780-08-4.

The state inventories of medicinal plants in Mexico are increasing as local institutions recognize the importance of establishing the scientific basis of their floristic, ecological, and health care programs. The most recent publication focuses on the state of Quintana Roo of the Yucatan peninsula on the southern border of Mexico. Previous listings for Veracruz, Yucatan, Durango and Sonora have relied heavily on general bibliographies on medicinal plants. In contrast, Pulido and Serralta base 370 of their 373 plants on primary sources from the state.

The flowering plants dominate the medicinal vascular flora with 366 species while ferns account for seven. The information is based upon herbarium and bibliographic records as well as interviews with users and growers of vegetal remedies, *curanderos*, and members of Asociación de Médicos Tradicionales de Quintana Roo. Of the 18 references in the bibliography, 13 are based upon studies in Quintana Roo or from the Yucatan peninsula.

The main text (written in Spanish) consists of plant listings divided into ferns, dicots and monocots. Under each division, the plants are arranged alphabetically by family, genus and species. Each taxonomic entry has the following fields: scientific name, common name, medicinal use, bibliographic reference, locality where it is used in the state, and herbarium specimen. It is curious that 13 plants do not have common names registered in Quintana Roo; no explanation is given. Herbarium specimens are deposited in the state herbarium (CIQRO), the regional herbarium (CICY) or the National Herbarium (MEXU).

It is difficult to estimate the percentage of native medicinal plants of the state's flora (about 2300 native species, 70% of which are found in the rest of the peninsula) because no distinction is made among the native, introduced and cultivated taxa. The only plant illustrations are the six untitled color photographs on the cover. One state map, a list of synonyms and an index to common names adds to the utility of this welcomed contribution of the inventory of medicinal plants of Mexico.

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