

NEWS AND COMMENTS

COMMENTS, RESPONSES, OPINIONS, and notes on **COURSES AND DEGREES IN ETHNOBIOLOGY** and **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION** may be submitted to the News and Comments editor in addition to items for the sections included below. Because the Journal is published only twice a year, dated items must be received at least six months in advance of the event.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

The **Centre for Nutrition and the Environment of Indigenous Peoples (CINE)** recently opened its new offices and laboratories on the Macdonald Campus of McGill University in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec. Established as an independent and permanent research and education center for Indigenous Peoples, CINE addresses concerns about the integrity of traditional food systems. The staff of CINE is focusing initially on Northern Canada, but looks to develop links and cooperative programs internationally.

CINE represents a novel partnership in which Indigenous Peoples and academically-trained scientists work together in a university setting. Its policies, research, and educational activities are determined by a Governing Board composed of representatives of the Assembly of First Nations, Council for Yukon Indians, Dene Nation, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and the Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories. The director of the Centre is Harriet V. Kuhnlein and the associate director is Timothy Johns. Graduate students can become associated with the Centre by registering in an affiliated degree program at McGill University. For further information contact the director or associate director at CINE, McGill University, Macdonald Campus, 21,111 Lakeshore, Ste.-Anne-de-Bellevue QC, Canada, H9X 3V9; telephone 1.514.398-7544; fax 1.514.398-1020; E-mail address CYNE@MUSICA.MCGILL.CA.

Participants in the **Ethnobotany Task of the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory**, Australia are focusing on promoting traditional Aboriginal plant use through a variety of programs and publications. Based on ethnobotanical surveys carried out with speakers of Djambarrpuyngu, Emi/Batjamal, Alawa, Mudburra, Mangarrayi, Ngarinyman, and many other languages, they have developed plant walks in the Darwin Botanic Garden, posters, and popular booklets. A booklet on Mudburra ethnobotany, for example, contains descriptions of 99 species of useful plants, many of which are illustrated to facilitate identification in the field. The booklets, inspired by the wish of Aboriginal elders to record their traditional knowledge, are designed and produced to stimulate younger Aboriginal people to learn about traditional culture in their contemporary school curriculum. In addition, attractive full-color posters for the general public have been produced on themes such as Bush Medicine, Bush Timber, and Bush Pandanus.

The ethnobotanical information from various Aboriginal groups has been consolidated in a comprehensive publication, *Traditional Aboriginal Medicines in the Northern Territory of Australia*. This 650-page book details the local uses of 167 medicinal plants as well as some animals and minerals that have been documented over the course of the eight-year project. For more information, write to Ethnobotany Task, Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, P.O. Box 496, Palmerston, N.T. 0831, Australia; telephone 61.89.894513; fax 61.89.323849 or 61.89.894510.

The **Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT)** is a nongovernmental organization whose main objective is to bring about a revival of India's medical heritage. The FRHLT has begun a medicinal plants conservation project in Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, three states in southern India. A network—called INMEDGERN (Indian Medicinal Plants Genetic Resources Network)—will coordinate activities in over thirty Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas for *in-situ* conservation as well as some 15 *ex-situ* conservation areas to be established over the next three years in cooperation with Forest Departments and environmental and health NGOs. These areas will protect a large number of plant species—including endemics and threatened medicinal plants—in all major forest and vegetation types of the region, from thorny scrub to rain forests. In addition, the conservation sites will be used to demonstrate methods for sustainable production and use of medicinal plants in classical and folk systems of Indian medicine. For additional information, contact FRLHT, 50, 2nd Stage, 3rd Main, MSH Layout, Anand Nagar, Bangalore—560 024, India; Telephone 91.80.3336909; Fax 91.80.3334167.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The **IV International Congress of Ethnobiology (ICE)** will be held in India under the auspices of the International Society of Ethnobiology. The focal theme of this congress is "Ethnobiology in Human Welfare." It will be held from November 17–21, 1994, in the historic city of Lucknow, 500 km east of Delhi, northern India, at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI). The ICE programme will include plenary sessions, symposia, contributed papers, and poster sessions. The official language will be English, although posters in other languages will be accepted. Registration fees are US\$100 for international delegates, US\$60 for students and delegates from developing countries, and Rs. 800 for participants from India. Fees for accompanying persons are 25% less. A number of postcongress field trips and sight-seeing tours are being planned. For the latest circular and any additional information, contact: Dr. S.K. Jain, Chair, Organising Committee Fourth ICE, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, India 226001; telephone 91.522.236431; telex 0535-2315; fax 91.522.244330 or 243111.

JOURNALS AND OTHER MEDIA

The **Regional Network for the Chemistry of Natural Products in Southeast Asia** publishes a newsletter twice a year. The latest issue (volume 17, number 1; January–June 1993) contains country reports on activities carried out in the mem-

ber nations, research reports and general news on scientific exchanges, lecture series, and conferences. The Network, which started operations in 1975, is a regional grouping of 11 countries. Its main purpose is to strengthen research and training capabilities of national faculties and institutions through regional programs such as training courses, workshops, seminars, and exchange of personnel and information, and to promote regional cooperation in the advancement of sciences. It receives financial support from UNESCO's regular budget and through funds-in-trust which are largely contributed by the government of Japan. For more information, contact: Mr. Fumin Zhang, Programme Specialist, Unesco Regional Office for Science and Technology for Southeast Asia, Jalan M.H. Thamrin 14, Tromolpos 1273/JKT, Jakarta 10012, INDONESIA; telephone 62.21.3141308; fax 62.21.3150382.

The **Botany 2000—Asia Newsletter** is published 4 times a year by the UNESCO Regional Office of Science and Technology for South and Central Asia. The latest issue (volume 2, number 4; December 1993) contains news on workshops, training courses, databases, projects, and forthcoming meetings as well as reports on unauthorized collection and export of medicinal plants from the region. The editor requests one to two page articles and reports of seminars and meetings of general relevance to botany and ethnobotany in Asia. Apart from producing the newsletter, the UNESCO Botany 2000—Asia program sponsors occasional workshops on the taxonomy, ethnobotany, and chemistry of various plant families as well as training courses in herbarium techniques and curation. For more information, contact: Marius van Alphen, editor, UNESCO/ROSTSCA, 8 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057, INDIA; telephone 91.11.677310, 676308, 676285 or 676588; fax 91.11.6873351.

BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

The following titles have been received for review in the *Journal of Ethnobiology* and are still awaiting reviewers:

The Ethnobotany of Southern Balochistan, Pakistan, with Particular Reference to Medicinal Plants. Steven M. Goodman and Abdul Ghafoor. Fieldiana: Botany: New Series, No. 31, 1992. Pp.v, 84. (paperbound). ISSN 0015-0746.

Aboriginal Health and History: Power and Prejudice in Remote Australia. Ernest Hunter. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1993. Pp. 318. (\$59.95) (hardcover). ISBN 0-521-41629-9.

The Cultural Relations of Classification: An Analysis of Nuaulu Animal Categories From Central Seram. Roy Ellen. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology, 1993. Pp. 315. (\$64.95) (hardcover). ISBN 0-521-43114-X

Domestication of Plants in the Old World (Second Edition). Daniel Zohary and Maria Hopf. Clarendon Press: Oxford Science Publications, 1993. Pp. 278. (\$35.00) (hardcover). ISBN 0-19-854795-1

Edible Wild Plants of Sub-Saharan Africa. Charles R. Peters, Eileen M. O'Brien, Robert B. Drummond. Kew, Richmond, Surrey: Royal Botanic Gardens. 1992. Pp. 239. (15 £) (softcover). ISBN 0 947643 51 6.

Foraging and Farming in the Eastern Woodlands. Edited by C. Margaret Scarry. University Press of Florida, 1993. Pp. 366. (\$49.95) (hardcover) ISBN 0-8130-1235-X

The Iron Age Community of Osteria dell'Osa. A Study of Socio-political Development in Central Tyrrhenian Italy. Anna Maria Bietti Sestieri. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1992. Pp. xii, 271. ISBN 0-521-32628-1.

Life Cycles. Reflections of an Evolutionary Biologist. John Tyler Bonner. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1993. Pp. 209. \$19.95 (hardcover). ISBN 0-691-03319-6.

Native American Cultural Resource Studies at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Richard W. Stoffle, David B. Halmo, John E. Olmsted and Michael J. Evans. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan. 1990. Pp. xxiv, 232. (paperbound). ISBN 0-87944-328-6.

The Nature of Shamanism: Substance and Function of a Religious Metaphor. Michael Ripinsky-Naxon. State University of New York Press, 1993. Pp. 289. (\$57.50) (hardcover). ISBN 0-7914-1385-3

Phytolith Systematics: Emerging Issues. George Rapp, Jr., and Susan C. Mulholland (Editors). New York: Plenum Press, 1992. Pp 350. \$49.50 (hardcover). ISBN 0-036-44208-6.

Polynesian Herbal Medicine. W. Arthur Whistler. Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii: National Tropical Botanical Garden. 1992. Pp. x, 238. ISBN 0-915809-16-8.

Primate Behavior: Information, Social Knowledge, and the Evolution of Culture. Duane Quiatt and Vernon Reynolds. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge Studies in Biological Anthropology, 1993. Pp. 322. (hardcover) ISBN 0-521-35255-X

Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany. A retrospective view on the occasion of 20 years of the International Work Group for Palaeoethnobotany. Willem van Zeist, Krystyna Wasylikowa and Karl-Ernst Behre (Editors). Rotterdam, Netherlands and Brookfield, Vermont: A.A. Belkema, 1991. Pp. ix, 350. \$60.00 (hardcover). ISBN 90-6191-881-2.

Smallholders, Householders. Robert McC. Netting. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1993. Pp. xxi, 389. \$49.50 (hardcover), \$16.95 (paperback). ISBN 0-8047-2061-4 (hardcover), 0-8047-2102-5 (paperback).

Soils in Archaeology: Landscape Evolution and Human Occupation. Edited by Vance T. Holliday. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992. Pp. 254. (\$39.95) (hardcover) ISBN 1-56098-111-3

Weaving the Threads of Life: The Khita Gyn-Eco-Logical Healing Cult Among the Yaka. Rene Devisch. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1993. Pp. 323. (\$19.95) (paperbound). ISBN 0-226-14326-7

If you would like to review any of these books and would be able to have your review completed within four months after receiving the book, please write to:

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