



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Springer

Review: [untitled]

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Source: *Economic Botany*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Jul. - Sep., 1964), p. 283

Published by: Springer on behalf of New York Botanical Garden Press

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4252528>

Accessed: 13/08/2010 09:50

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practice and allied subjects complete this part.

The only conspicuous lack is any purely botanical section—taxonomy, cytology, genetics, morphology, etc., fields in which progress is slowly but surely being made. This lack, however, is understandable when one realizes that the conference dealt with the plantation industry, which is based essentially on one species, *Hevea brasiliensis*, and that most of the botanical research is carried out quite independently from the plantation industry. Nevertheless, in view of the potentialities for improving or otherwise altering plantation *Hevea* stock in the future, perhaps a summary of recent work along these lines might have been included. The format of the volume is pleasingly clear and usable, and the few illustrations, tables, graphs, and charts are clear and well printed.

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Cultivated Plants and their Wild Relatives.

P. M. Zukovskij. Abridged Translation by P. S. Hudson of a Work published by State Publishing House, Moscow, 1950. 107 pp. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, Farnham Royal, Bucks, England, 1962. 10s.

There is an immense amount of information compiled in this translation, the appearance of which should be of interest to all economic botanists, especially to those engaged in teaching. It is based on a series of lectures at Moscow University. Notes, some extensive, others extremely brief, cover different economic plants, for some of which many different species are considered (e.g., wheat 20, *Cinchona* 8, cotton 23). These plants are arranged in ten groups: cereals and other starch plants; sugar plants; plants producing insulin; oil plants; plants producing protein; plants with succulent fruits or seeds—nuts; fibre plants; rubber plants; stimulants and narcotics; and various woody, technological, and medicinal plants. For most of the economic plants, the information offered comprises a brief indication of present ideas on taxonomy of the plant, data on chromosome number, discussion of

hybridity, geographic distribution and movement in historic times, and occasionally other valuable notes.

Readers should be alerted that nomenclature, in a few instances of important species, is not the most widely accepted at the present time, and that there are, in some cases, erroneous statements (e.g., "the original description of the genus [*Hevea*] was based on a plant of *Castilloa* . . ."). These very minor shortcomings, however, in no way detract from the great value and wide usability of the monograph. Many botanists will undoubtedly hope that the series of lectures will be translated into English in their complete form. I realized myself, while reading this short form, how tantalizingly abbreviated it must be.

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Barley and Malt: Biology, Biochemistry, Technology. Edited by A. H. Cook. 740 pp. illus. Academic Press, New York, 1962. \$21.00.

Barley today is one of the major crops and accounts for somewhat more than 10% of the grain produced in the world. The increase of world production since World War II, amounting to at least 50%, is relatively greater than that of any other grain crop. In recent years there has been greatly increased research devoted to barley and malt, and many data have been accumulated. In the past it has been difficult for the farmer or maltster to have access to the results of scientific investigations. Also, there has been a need for better documented fundamental knowledge of malting practices. The purpose of the present book is to make available in comprehensive and connected form this wealth of information. The 11 chapters have been contributed by leading authorities in barley research and represent institutions in Canada, England, France, Eire, Germany, and the United States.

The first five chapters deal with the barley plant and include "The Botany of the Barley Plant," "The Science of Malting Barley Production," "The Breeding of Barley Varieties," "The Identification of Barley Varieties,"