



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Springer

Review: [untitled]

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Source: *Economic Botany*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (Apr. - Jun., 1982), pp. 261-262

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4254388>

Accessed: 13/08/2010 09:30

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from the margins and deeper parts of the deposit are the only ones used, with examples of possible intrusion (e.g., snails) being carefully noted.

The book is uniformly well written and in all cases the materials, methods, and resulting data are clearly presented in an organized fashion. This is important, since it will enable the material to be reassessed easily in the future. A number of interesting topics are discussed in various parts of the work, such as transhumance and cultural and environmental evolution.

Technically, the book deserves high marks in all respects. It is well bound and printed with clear, amply detailed, and abundant illustrations and tables. References are listed at the conclusion of each chapter and a complete index pulls the volume together.

This is an important book for anyone interested in South American archaeology, ethnobiology, or history. It is well worth owning.

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Atlas des Plantes Hallucinogènes du Monde. Richard Evans Schultes; translated from English by Jocelyne Lepage. 112 pp. illus. L'Aurore, Montreal, Quebec. Price not given.

The heart of this handsome little book is, as its title indicates, a color atlas of the principal hallucinogenic plants of the Old World and the New. Also illustrated are some of the methods of their preparation and the paraphernalia commonly associated with their use. The 44 plates are equally divided between representative species of the Old and the New World, and there are also 25 figures in black and white of photographs and drawings.

Although the text is largely an exposition of essential information that can be easily appreciated by the interested layman to whom it is directed, some observations on the history, pharmacology, and ethnobotany of the plants is given as well, together with their vernacular and scientific names.

This work first appeared in a slightly different format (with a few illustrations) in 1976 as a "Golden Guide" booklet at the pleasantly surprising price of \$1.95. The text has been translated with fidelity, but because the short bibliography of the original edition referred predominantly to English works, it has been deleted from the French version.

This publication is admirably suited as an introduction to ethnobotany, and students and laymen alike in many parts of the world would surely find it rewarding to have a translation available in the languages of their competence. Elmer W. Smith's talent as a botanical illustrator merits a citation of *summa cum laude*.

B. LOWY, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803

Wheat Science—Today and Tomorrow. Edited by L. T. Evans and W. J. Peacock. 290 pp. illus. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1981. \$39.95.

A compendium of what is known today about wheat biology and agronomy and prospects for future improvement, this volume comprises 17 chapters contributed by 23 experts from Australia, England, and the United States. It is the result of a symposium celebrating the eightieth birthday of Sir Otto H. Frankel, whose contributions to the genetics of economic plants are so widely recognized.

The topics covered so adequately and so broadly include: the early history of wheat; genetic resources; repeated DNA sequences; rubisco composition; alien genetic material; prospects for transformation; new approaches to breeding; wheat-barley hybrids; rust parasites in Australia; chemistry and nutritional potential of proteins; genetics and physiology of flowering; interaction between physiology and breeding; yield improvement;

competitive and communal plants and yield; developments in agronomy; prospects; and Frankel's contributions to wheat genetics. A list of 99 publications of Frankel closes the volume.

Unusual in books written by so many different contributors, the numerous chapters are extremely consistent in quality, coverage, and conciseness.

The book points out that, of all cultivated plants, wheat is perhaps the most thoroughly understood. This may be true if one is considering *food* plants, but there are other plants (e.g., rubber, domesticated only a century ago) that modern techniques have altered more drastically and whose biology and agronomy are perhaps better understood. Yet wheat, an annual of great age and extraordinarily complex genetic history, stands out, it is true, as one of the food plants that has been accorded most extensive research and is today most basically understood. This volume does not attempt to summarize past research on wheat but tends to stress present and future avenues of investigation that seem to offer potentialities for improvement and new departures. The book, nevertheless, does provide a much needed kind of summary that all investigators dedicated to plant breeding, genetics, agronomy, pathology, and physiology of wheat—and to a great extent of all cereals—will find useful, suggestive, and challenging.

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Encyclopedia of World Timbers, Names and Technical Literature. Julius B. Boutelje. 338 pp. Swedish Forest Products Research Laboratory, Stockholm, 1980. Price not given.

Boutelje's book is meant to help persons interested in finding appropriate technical literature on woods and timbers. To use this guide to the literature, one needs to know a binomial or vernacular name of the timber tree or timber. With one or the other of these, it is possible to locate pertinent literature on more than 4,000 timbers of economic importance. The text comprises three indices: (1) an alphabetical list of binomials, with authorities, and some synonyms, (2) an alphabetical list of vernacular names (local, common, trade), and (3) a numerically coded list of literature references to which one is directed through either of the two former lists. In using this book it is important to realize that not all botanical synonyms for any given plant are included (Boutelje's choices are not based necessarily on taxonomically valid names since it is his contention that "botanical nomenclature is rapidly changing and the name which is considered as the valid botanical name today may be a synonym tomorrow [!]"), nor is the list of vernacular names exhaustive (a practical impossibility).

Doubtless, the book will serve its stated purpose, i.e., to direct readers to sources of technical information about the timbers included. Although authorities are given for each binomial, Boutelje does not use the accepted practice of citing in parentheses the author of the basionym or name-bringing synonym. The inconsistencies in style, misspellings, and plethora of factual and typographic errors in the scientific names will be disconcerting to precise-minded users and will cause some wonderment about the general accuracy of all the information.

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Wood Identification. An Annotated Bibliography. M. Gregory. 30 pp. IAWA Bulletin, New Series 1(1-2):3-41. 1980. \$11.00.

Gregory's is a fitting first article to appear in this new series published by the International Association of Wood Anatomists, an organization founded in 1931 to further interest in the study of wood anatomy, including wood identification. Foresters, archeologists, criminologists, botanists, timber and wood users, and industrial firms often require iden-