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fatty acids reported here have shown the oils to be remarkably similar to olive oil. The two genera are also of considerable biogeographical interest; they belong to the arecoid tribe Areceae which includes 81 genera with pseudomonomerous gynoecia. Only seven of the 81, including *Jessenia* and *Oenocarpus*, occur in the New World, and these also represent relatively unspecialized taxa within the tribe; thus their relationships with Old World genera are especially important.

The volume is divided into six major sections: I. Introduction; II. Ethnobotany; III. Nutritional Aspects; IV. Chemotaxonomic Studies; V. Morphology and Growth; and VI. Taxonomy. Indexes to the more than 100 local names that have been applied to the palms and to scientific names are provided. The introduction treats the difficulties of working with palms and the rationale for an ethnobotanical approach. The other sections present considerable new information well illustrated by many field photos and including distribution maps and 19 tables of data of various sorts. Chemical studies although incomplete have indicated that flavonoids will probably be useful taxonomically within the group. Some systematists have suggested that *Oenocarpus* and *Jessenia* belong to a single genus; the new taxonomic treatment adequately explains the author's data bases and conclusions.

The treatment will be especially useful for those interested in ethnobotany, morphology, and taxonomy, which are the most thoroughly researched areas. The study provides a broad base for continuing studies on these palms and emphasizes the need for similar investigations of related genera.

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**Traditional Herbal Medicine in Northern Thailand.** Viggo Brun and Trond Schumacher. University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. 1987. 349 pp. \$48.00.

It is not often that the ethnopharmacology of a region as rich as northern Thailand in the use of herbal medicines is studied by more competent specialists: Prof. Viggo Brun of the University of Copenhagen, an expert in the Thai language, and Dr. Trond Schumacher, medical doctor and a botanist of the University of Oslo, with the assistance of Dr. Terje Bjørnland, chemist and botanist. The result is an extraordinary book based on extensive and very thorough plant collecting, study of medicinal manuscripts, and work with Thai assistants and informants. The only way to describe this book is to use the terms *profoundly thorough* and *masterfully authoritative*.

The contents indicate the complete coverage of the study: 1) Introduction; 2) The Royal Tradition of Wat Pho, Bangkok; 3) The Medical Tradition of Northern Thailand; 4) Northern Thai Disease Concepts; 5) Drugs and Diseases; and 6) Will Herbalism Survive? Each of these sections contains from two to seven sections devoted to specific topics. One of the main portions of the book is an extremely detailed Appendix—a Compilation of Ethnobotanical Data by Bjørnland and Schumacher—of 57 pages of tables listing 528 medicinal plants identified on the basis of voucher specimens (plus 23 that are not able to be botanically determined). For each entry the table offers: a) vernacular name(s); b) collection number; c) medical use(s); d) parts of plants used; e) physical quality; and f) preparation and administration. There is a second Appendix dedicated to Localities, Dates of Collecting, and Names of Informants. The utility of this valuable book is greatly enhanced by having three detailed indexes: a) Northern Thai medical terms; b) Western medical terms and related terminology; and c) Vernacular names of plants. The Bibliography of 115 references is of special utility because of the numerous, rarely cited, articles on the ethnopharmacology of southeastern Asia.

There can be no doubt that this volume will be a milestone that stimulates further and,

it is hoped, similarly broad and meticulous handling of field data against an historical and literary background.

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**Weeds of Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula.** Shaukat Ali Chaudhary and Muhammad Akram. National Herbarium, Regional Agriculture and Water Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Water, P.O. Box 17285, Riyadh 11285, Saudi Arabia. 1987. 246 pp. No price given.

This is a completely revised and expanded edition of *A Manual of Weeds of Central and Eastern Saudi Arabia* by S. A. Chaudhary and M. A. Zawawi published in 1983. More than 350 species are included in the table of contents but not all are discussed in detail.

The bulk of the volume consists of single page entries for each species. The name, author, family, transliterated Arabic name, simple but helpful line drawings with scale, description, distribution, means of propagation, and category of weed (broadleaf, annual, etc.) are included. In addition, the name and a brief description are given in Arabic. For genera with several species, e.g., *Euphorbia*, pp. 97–102, there is a simple key, diagrams, and details of technical features, such as seeds for *Euphorbia*. Arrangement is alphabetical by families. A short family key precedes the species descriptions and a short glossary concludes the English section of the book. A two page appendix provides a key to common grass weeds in wheat and barley fields along with diagrams of ligules and grains.

This is an inexpensively produced book prepared from a typed manuscript, but is to be commended for both the breadth of treatment and detail in critical groups. The drawings, prepared largely by the authors, are very helpful. Nomenclature is up to date and important synonyms are included. This is a valuable contribution not only for weed scientists, but for any one interested in the flora of the Arabian peninsula.

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**Weeds of the United States and Their Control.** Harri J. Lorenzi and Larry S. Jeffrey. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 115 5th Ave., New York, NY 10003. 1987. 355 pp. with color figs. \$74.95.

According to the back cover, this book “describes and illustrates over 300 individual plants. A full page is devoted to each weed with a thorough discussion of its description and identifying characteristics; its habitats and distribution in the United States; and its control. Weed control techniques include mechanical, cultural, biological, as well as chemical methods. The coverage is substantial—69 families of weeds are represented.” In my opinion, this description is a bit hyperbolic.

The bulk of the book consists of a single page entry for each of the plants with a range map; scientific and common name for each plant and family; description; habitat; and suggested control. The arrangement is by families. The volume is marred by not having a table of contents. Nomenclature seems generally up to date, yet *Cuscuta pentagona* is used instead of *C. campestris*, which is a more recent name, and *Striga lutea* is used rather than *S. asiatica*. The maps are distracting because dots were placed by hand giving a “clumped” appearance on some maps. More importantly, we are not told *how* the ranges were determined. There are several questionable distributions: one example is *Tribulus terrestris* which is shown extending to Massachusetts (p. 190). I have never seen it in Virginia nor does the recent *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* list it, although Fernald does include Virginia within the range. In fact, several of the ranges in the book appear to be based on Fernald. Maps are inexplicably lacking for some taxa (e.g., *Opuntia*, p. 214).