

Contents

Foreword.....	9
Preface	11
Acknowledgments.....	15
Contributors	16
PART 1: General Ethnobotany	
The Scope and Aims of Ethnobotany in a Developing World	
JANIS B. ALCORN	23
Ethnobotany: An Old Practice, A New Discipline	
E. WADE DAVIS.....	40
Ethnobotanical Method and Fact: A Case Study	
FRANK J. LIPP.....	52
Ethnobotany Today and in the Future	
GHILLEAN T. PRANCE	60
Ethnobotany and Phytoanthropology	
PRIYADARSAN SENSARMA AND ASHOKE K. GHOSH.....	69
PART 2: Socioethnobotany	
New Paradigms for a New Ethnobotany: Reflections on the Case of Mexico	
VICTOR MANUEL TOLEDO.....	75
PART 3: Historical Ethnobotany	
Art and Artifact as Ethnobotanical Tools in the Ancient Near East with Emphasis on Psychoactive Plants	
WILLIAM A. EMBODEN, JR.....	93
"This Little Book of Herbs": Psychoactive Plants as Therapeutic Agents in the Badianus Manuscript of 1552	
PETER T. FURST	108
Gods and Plants in the Classical World	
CARL A. P. RUCK	131
PART 4: Ethnobotanical Conservation	
The Importance of Ethnobotany for Tropical Forest Conservation	
MARK J. PLOTKIN	147
Quantitative Ethnobotany and the Case for Conservation in Amazonia	
G. T. PRANCE, W. BALÉE, B. M. BOOM, AND R. L. CARNEIRO.....	157
A Near and Distant Star	
C. EARLE SMITH.....	175

PART 5: Ethnobotany in Education

Ethnobotany and the Liberal Arts

EDWARD F. ANDERSON.....	183
A Unique Visual Method of Sharing Ethnobotany with General Audiences	
JUDITH GRACE SCHMIDT.....	187

PART 6: Ethnobotanical Contributions to General Botany,
Crop Improvement, and Ecology

Ethnobotany and Plant Germ Plasm

MICHAEL J. BALICK	195
The Ethnobotany of Domesticated Plants	
CHARLES B. HEISER	200
The Ethnobotany of Artificial Selection in Seed Plant Domestication	
GARRISON WILKES.....	203

PART 7: Ethnobotany and Geography

Current Outlook for Ethnobotany in Colombia

EDUINO CARBONÓ	211
Ethnobotany in Africa	
JOHN O. KOKWARO.....	216
The Importance of Ethnobotany in American Anthropology	
WESTON LA BARRE.....	226
Ethnobotanical Resources of Hot, Arid Zones of India	
J. K. MAHESHWARI	235
Geographic Dynamics and Ethnobotany	
GEORGE R. MORGAN	250
A Case for Ethnobotany in Malaysia	
ONG HEAN CHOOI	258
Ethnobotany Today in Northwestern North America	
NANCY J. TURNER	264

PART 8: Ethnopharmacology

Arrow Poisons and Their Role in the Development of Medicinal Agents

NORMAN G. BISSET.....	289
New Concepts in Medical and Dental Ethnobotany	
MEMORY ELVIN-LEWIS AND WALTER H. LEWIS	303
Medicinal Chemistry's Debt to Ethnobotany	
ALBERT HOFMANN.....	311
Historical Perspective and Future of Ethnopharmacology	
BO R. HOLMSTEDT	320
Ethnopharmacology—A Challenge	
BO R. HOLMSTEDT AND JAN G. BRUHN.....	338
Amazonian Psychoactive Indoles: A Review	
JAN-ERIK LINDGREN.....	343
Biodynamic Constituents in Ayahuasca Admixture Plants: An Uninvestigated Folk Pharmacopeia	
DENNIS J. MCKENNA, L. E. LUNA, AND G. N. TOWERS	349
The Urgent Need for the Study of Medicinal Plants	
PLUTARCO NARANJO	362

Considerations in the Multidisciplinary Approach to the Study of Ritual Hallucinogenic Plants

PETER A. G. M. DE SMET 369

PART 9: Ethnomycology

Ethnomycology: Discoveries About *Amanita muscaria* Point to Fresh Perspectives

R. GORDON WASSON 385

PART 10: Archaeoethnobotany

Archaeology and Psychoactive Plants

PLUTARCO NARANJO 393

Archaeobotany: Scope and Significance

GORDON R. WILLEY 400

Index of Scientific Names 407

A popular catch phrase of our time claims that history is dead. What exactly is meant by this phrase, I am not sure, but it strikes me that perhaps it refers to the history of peoples, politics, and princes. With increasing migrations and commingling of peoples, the cultures of East-West political confrontation, and the obsolescence of some princes, perhaps the pundits are indeed onto something. But a more important history—that of people and plants—is far from dead. Like a ball of callus in a tissue culture, it is just emerging from its undifferentiated state and is putting out roots and shoots that give it definition and a chance at breathing, living, and contributing to the world of tomorrow. A vital part of this newly developed aspect of history is ethnobotany.

Plants have always been more important than politics—both to human daily living and to history. Even today, millions of subsistence farmers have no idea who their national political leaders are, but they know a great deal about their plants—sometimes even more than scientists. Furthermore, plants have had a greater historical impact than have politicians. An excellent example is provided by the new wheat seeds of an unknown Mennonite who stuffed his in, more probably, her, pockets before leaving the Russian steppes in the 1870s. These seeds grew into plants so tolerant of cold that they made winter wheat a practical reality for the United States and Canada. By 1919, Turkey red, resulting from the gift of those destitute foreigners, accounted for 93 percent of U.S. winter wheat. Its contribution to generations of North Americans, including farmers, millers, freight-train operators, bakers, accountants, capitalists, and consumers, has been far greater than the contributions of the presidents of the 1870s, not to mention the thousands of lesser legislators of that decade.

Mennonite wheat is just one of dozens of plants, many of them from primitive aboriginal societies, that directed and changed history since that era. The 1880s and 1890s saw the international development of bananas, African oil palm, rubber, the cola nut, the chocolate tree, quinine, and pineapple, to mention only a few. The effects of these plants far transcends the results of any political decisions of the time. Southeast Asia's banana so transformed Central American republics that their economies now rely on this fruit for their survival, and South America's pineapple changed Hawaii from a sleepy, exotic way station to an outpost of hard-driving enterprise from which it has never recovered. In less than a century the Amazon's rubber tree revolutionized industries and lifestyles around the world, exerting an influence greater than any political upheaval. Africa's oil palm probably changed the landscape of large parts of Southeast Asia more than World War II did, and quinine from Java's cinchona plants was affected the over all tropics in a way that no political ruler could ever match: it has saved thousands of lives in the tropics.