

Book Review

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Indian Ocean Islands: Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles and Mascarenes

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2004, Medpharm Scientific Publishers, Birkenwaldstr. 44, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany
567 pages, 192 colour photographs, 588 black-and-white figures, 312 chemical structures, 11 maps
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Approximately 350 medicinal and aromatic plants of the south west Indian Ocean islands (Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles and Mascarenes) are monographed in this important reference work. The introduction contains general information on each island/archipelago, with information on geography, geomorphology, climate, flora (with a vegetation map for each island). The islands of Mauritius, Réunion and Rodrigues, which make up the Mascarene archipelago, are each discussed separately in the introduction.

Following the introductory pages are 32 plates with colour photographs of many of the species, arranged in alphabetical order. The plant monographs follow, with all the species arranged in alphabetical order. For each plant the following information is given: general information, family, synonyms (if any), vernacular names, etymology, botanical description, distribution and ecology, conservation status, drug specification, chemistry, pharmacology and use in traditional medicine. A black-and-white figure is also included in each monograph.

All the references to the literature cited are given after the monographs. Unfortunately, the references do not include the article titles, which are often very useful. The index is arranged into three sections, namely an Indications Index, a

Names Index and a Plant Families Index. The Indications Index provides groups of plant names under headings such as 'Conditions of the digestive system' and 'Conditions of the skin'. This is useful if one is looking for a plant that is used for a particular ailment. The Names Index contains both the scientific plant names as well as common names. Plant name synonyms are included in the index, with a link to the current plant name. The Plant Families Index lists all the plant family names in alphabetical order, with the relevant species in a list below the family name. This is also a useful feature of the index, especially if one is looking for related plants in a particular family.

It was the aim of the editors to fill a gap in the current scientific literature for certain plants, especially from Seychelles and Comoros, which have not been previously monographed. This collection of monographs is not a comprehensive list of every medicinal plant in the region, but concentrates on those endemic plants that are now rare and less well known. As such, this interesting reference work documents valuable information on many plants from this region. The book is neatly laid out and well presented, and would be a worthwhile resource for many people in the field of Ethnobotany and related disciplines.

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@inproceedings{Light2004MedicinalAA, title={Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Indian Ocean Islands: Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles and Mascarenes}, author={Marnie Elizabeth. Light}, year={2004} }. Marnie Elizabeth.Â Psiloxylon mauritianum (Bouton ex Hook.f.) Baillon (Myrtaceae): A promising traditional medicinal plant from the Mascarene Islands.