

Book Reviews

Medicinal Plants of the World: Chemical Constituents, Traditional and Modern Medicinal Uses. Volume 3. By Ivan A. Ross. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. 2005. xvii + 623 pp. 16.5 × 26 cm. ISBN 1-58829-129-4. \$125.00.

Sustaining the excellent standards established in volumes 1 and 2 of *Medicinal Plants of the World: Chemical Constituents, Traditional and Modern Uses*, Ivan A. Ross has authored volume 3, covering many details of 16 important plant species used around the world in medicinal preparations and/or dietary supplements. This is timely because the use of herbal medicines and nutritional supplements is on the rise. The plants discussed in this volume are *Camellia sinensis*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Coffea arabica*, *Daucus carota*, *Ferula assafoetida*, *Hordeum vulgare*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Olea europaea*, *Oryza sativa*, *Plantago ovata*, *Saccharum officinarum*, *Serenoa repens*, *Sesamum indicum*, and *Zingiber officinale*. Each chapter on the specific plant includes the following categories: common names, botanical description, origin and distribution, traditional medicinal uses, chemical constituents, pharmacological activities, clinical trials, and references. The author's thorough coverage for each plant summarizes information on the use of the plant in different countries, describing traditional medicinal applications and what information is known from the clinical trials.

Color photos for identification of all the plants covered are presented. For each plant, a number of reported chemical constituents is listed. An extensive bibliography covers a wide range of disciplines. A total of 4551 references are cited. Cross-references are provided for common names used in specific countries and for scientific names. The comprehensive index includes important terms, symptoms, and treatments. A glossary is described in 16 pages, and 25 pages of cross-references include common plant name, country, and corresponding botanical name.

Medicinal Plants of the World: Chemical Constituents, Traditional and Modern Uses, Volume 3, is a valuable resource and is a critical reference for researchers in phytomedicine, medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, herbal medicine, toxicology, and botany. The volume belongs on the shelves of libraries of institutes of pharmacy, medicinal chemistry, and botany.

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