
Book reviews

Hails, M.R.; Crane, T.D.: Plant Poisoning in Animals. A Bibliography from the World Literature, 1960–1979. The Veterinary Bulletin, vol. 52, pp 557–1048. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, Farnham Royal, Slough, U.K. Soft bound £ 12.00.

The editor of this Veterinary Bulletin is the Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Health, one of the 10 bureaux and 4 institutes which together form the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, an organisation sponsored by the Commonwealth governments for the dissemination of information on agricultural research. The purpose of the non-annotated bibliography, comprising 3206 references, was to bring together information from the literature on plant poisoning in animals – that is those plants having an adverse effect on the health of animals, those containing factors which limit or inhibit optimal animal performance, and those containing anti-fertility substances. This important reference work is arranged taxonomically into plant families. An additional 40 pages deliver indices, provide access to topics via author index, subject indices (plant species with scientific names, and animals poisoned with common names), and a geographical index. Surprisingly enough calves and bees cannot be found to be used as an access.

This valuable treasure of knowledge demonstrates anew the importance of analyzing plants and plant compounds destined for use by man and animals. From the genetical point of view, information on changes in the composition of secondary plant products, frequently of tremendous importance for determining the value of plants as food and/or feed-linked as a side effect of breeding processes, is extremely scarce. Plant poisoning in animals can be an indication of adverse effects of certain se-

lection procedures which do not keep in mind the switches in synthetic processes as a result of mutations and recombinations. This bibliography could be an encouragement to draw the attention of breeders to this neglected topic.

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Krochmal, A.; Krochmal, C.: Uncultivated Nuts of the United States. Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 450. US Department of Agriculture: Washington, DC 1982. 89 pp., 159 figs.

Plant Breeding is a constant search for new species that have the potential to produce renewable, usable basic food products. This handbook is on nuts and nut-like seeds from trees and shrubs that are not cultivated in orchards, but generally grown wild, or that are sometimes grown as ornamentals. Descriptions, illustrations and range maps help the reader to identify the species. It is a very useful guide to potentially usable resources for human beings. The selection is restricted to nuts that are indehiscent, which means that they do not split open when mature. The information on uses were derived from the sources given in the bibliography (56 references), combined with the professional and long-term personal experiences of people working in various parts of the USA. For all species common, widely used names are given. An extremely useful and stimulating handbook.

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