

ISE Newsletter

July 2006, Volume 6, Issue 2

President's Message

Looking for New, Young General Committee Members to Stimulate our Thinking!

This will be my last message as President and I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Nanning at the end of August. I am sure that our Chinese hosts have laid on a good programme in all ways and I am sure that we will have a good time together as well as finding out more about a region which is not very well known yet.

Our Congress is also the time to have our business meeting (Aug. 24, 8 p.m.; note added by bfh) and to elect new committee members and officers. Dan Moerman is our President-elect but we have vacancies for post of treasurer and we are always looking for new, young general committee members to stimulate our thinking. The exact timing of the Business Meeting is not known yet but will be announced at the meeting.

I have been exploring the possibility of our finances being handled by a company who specialises in such things. The one which is most promising is a group who could take subscriptions by credit card which I know will be welcomed by many of us so I hope that we can move something forward and be able to report to you about progress soon.

It is very good to have been told that our 'own' journal, Journal of Ethnopharmacology, has once again increased its Impact Factor in 2005 to 1.544 from 1.420 in 2004. Thanks are due to Rob Verpoorte and his team for all the work that they put in and for everyone who submits high quality papers which have helped to boost the rating in recent years.

Peter Houghton
ISE President 2004-2006

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Latest NEWS from:

Upcoming Biannual Conference

***The 9th International Congress on Ethnopharmacology
NICE 2006, August 22-26, 2006, Nanning, Guangxi, P.R.China***

Dear friends,

With the approval of the State Council, the 9th International Congress on Ethnopharmacology (NICE'2006) sponsored by International Society for Ethnopharmacology, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of P.R.China, People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous

Region of P.R. China will be held on Aug.22-26, 2006 in Li Yuan Resort, Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of P. R. China which acts as the reception base of China-ASEAN Expo.

The theme of the congress is “Ethnopharmacology and Natural Health Products”. In the congress, the lectures and discussions will focus on the conservation, utilization and sustainable development of ethnomedicine resources. The congress will offer a golden opportunity for guests and delegates to exhibit and communicate new technology, new products and research achievements of ethnomedicine. Over 500 honourable experts, scholars and entrepreneurs from 30 countries are invited to attend the congress, including: *Prof. Pei-gen XIAO*, *Prof. Yong-yan WANG* and other ten members of Chinese Academy of Sciences and of Chinese Academy of Engineering; president of International Society for Ethnopharmacology *Prof. Peter J. Houghton*; members of Executive Committee and former presidents of International Society for Ethnopharmacology. Their cutting-edge contributions to the congress will be helpful to the development of research in ethnomedicine all over the world.

We are looking forward to meeting you in the beautiful green city, Nanning. Let’s join hands, with concerted efforts, to make greater contributions to the development of ethnopharmacology and to the health of mankind!

The Organizing Committee for NICE’2006

Invited Lectures

Prof. Peter. J. Houghton (UK) Visualising an Elephant - Uses and Abuses of *in vitro* Tests

Prof. Jan G. Bruhn (Sweden) Natural Health Products in Europe: from Herbal Drugs to Medical Food

Dr. Cristina Inocencio Pretel (Spain) Ethnobotanical Study of Medicinal Plant Diversity in Wetlands of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

Dr. Seung-hoon CHOI (WHO) WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy and Activities

Prof. Nina L. Etkin (USA) Taking the Tradition out of Traditional Medicines: Globalization and Natural Health Products

Dr. Andrea Pieroni (UK) Adapting or Strengthening the Original Cultural Identity? Different Strategies in Dynamics and Changes of Traditional Medical Practices and Folk Pharmacopoeias among a few New and Ancient Diasporas in Europe

Prof. Michael Heinrich (UK) Ethnopharmacology – Local and Global Approaches to Health; Biodiversity and Cultures

Prof. Motoyoshi Satake (Japan) Several Medicinal Plants instead of Opium Illegal Cultivation in Myanmar

Prof. Mun Gwan Sim (Korea) Creation of Mountainous Resources by Rhizome Tissue Culture of *Rheum Coreanum Nakai*

Prof. Elaine Elisabetsky (Brazil) The Alkaloid Alstonine: an Antipsychotic Prototype from Traditional Medicine?

Prof. Anwarul Hassan Gilani (Pakistan) Novel Combinations in Medicinal Plants with Synergistic and Side-effects Neutralizing Potential

Prof. Gustavo F. Gonzales (Peru) *Lepidium meyenii*, Maca, a Plant from the Highlands of Peru: Biological Properties and Impact on Production and Exportation

Prof. Rudolf Bauer (Austria) Recent Progress in the Phytochemical and Pharmacological Evaluation of Chinese Herbs

Prof. P. J. Hylands (UK) Metabonomic Approaches to the Standardisation of Medicinal Plants

Prof. Pei-gen XIAO (China) Recent Advances on Ethnopharmacology and New Drug Development in China

Prof. Chang-xiao LIU (China) Research Advance on Coix Seed and Its Kangleite Injection with Interest Traditional Chinese Medicine in the World

Prof. De-pei LIU (China) Traditional Chinese Medicine Industry: *Quo Vadis*

Prof. Yong-su ZHEN (China) Anticancer Drugs of Microbial Origin

Prof. Da-yuan ZHU (China) New Drug Development from Traditional Medicine and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plant Resource: Review of Studies on *Huperzia serrata* (Thunb. ex Murray) Trev., Huperziaceae

Prof. De-an GUO (China) Quality Control and *in vivo* Metabolism of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Prof. Xiao-liang WANG (China) Butylphthalide (dl-NBP), a New Drug for Acute Cerebral Ischemia

Prof. Shi-lin CHEN (China) Chinese Medicine and Its Sustainable Utilization

Prof. Liang LIU (China) A Developing Novel Botanical Drug Product from A Chinese Medicinal Formula, Qingfu Guangjieshu (QFGJS) Capsule, for Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis

Prof. Han-ru HUANG (China) Development and Utilization of Zhuang Medicine

Prof. Guo-an LUO (China) Chemomics for the Modern Research on Traditional Medicine

Prof. Wei-xi TIAN (China) Fatty Acid Synthase Inhibitors from Plants and Their Effects on Weight-reducing

Prof. Gui-you DU (China) Application of Microdialysis on the Study for Cerebral Protective Mechanism of Chinese Materia Medica

The Organizing Committee Office for the 9th International Congress on Ethnopharmacology
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Ethnopharmacology Discussion Forum

“Ethnopharmacology Discussion Forum” is a new section in the ISE Newsletter to analyse all aspects of the question “What is ethnopharmacology?”

Please send us your comments to: j.ethnopharmacol@pharmacy.ac.uk or bfreihaller@bluewin.ch
Lengths of contributions: one sentence up to an article of 5000 words. Please provide full name and email-address. Anonymous comments will not be published.

Preview: Read in the next ISE Newsletter short statements on “What is ethnopharmacology?” from participants of NICE 2006 in Nanning!



New books

Edible Medicines

An Ethnopharmacology of Food

Nina L. Etkin

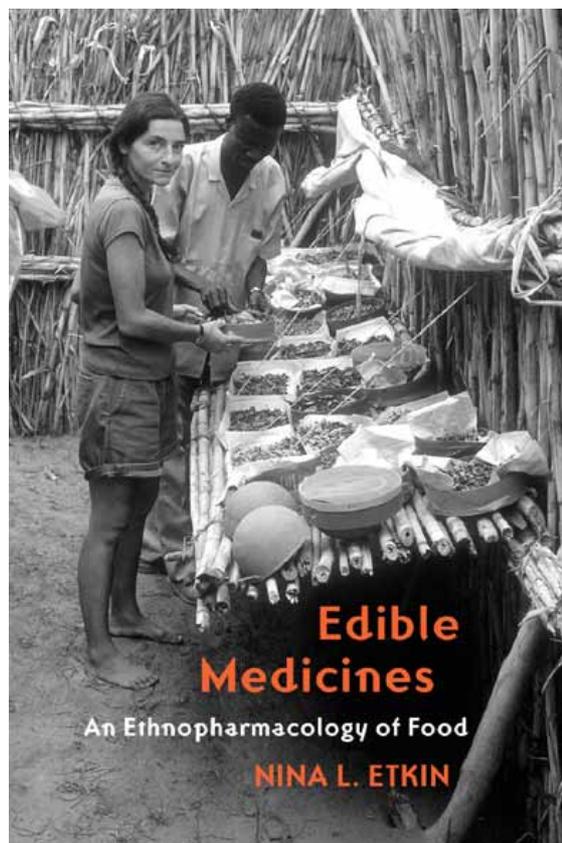
304 pp. / 6.0 x 9.0

University of Arizona Press, August 2006

US\$ 50.00

Book Description

Chile pepper is used today as flavouring, but Aztecs also applied it for toothache, sore throat, and asthma. The tonic properties of coffee have been recorded in Islamic pharmacopoeia since the eleventh century, and many peoples have used it to protect against Parkinson’s disease. Although much has been documented regarding the nutritional values of foods, until recently little attention has been paid to the pharmacologic potential of diet. This book investigates the health implications of foods from the cuisines of peoples around the world to describe the place of food in health maintenance. In this wide-ranging book, *Nina L. Etkin* reveals the pharmacologic potential of foods in the specific cultural contexts in which they are used. Incorporating co-evolution with a biocultural perspective, she addresses some of the physiological effects of foods across cultures and through history while taking into account both the complex dynamics of food choice and the blurred distinctions between food and medicine. Showing that food choice is more closely linked to health than is commonly thought, she helps us to understand the health implications of people’s food-centered actions in the context of real-life circumstances. Drawing on an extensive literature that transects food and culture, the history of medicine, ethnopharmacology, food history, nutrition, and human evolution, *Edible Medicines* demonstrates the intricate relationship between culture and nature. It will appeal to a wide range of scholars and professionals, from anthropologists to nutritionists, as well as general readers seeking a greater understanding of the medicinal aspects of food.



About the Author

Nina L. Etkin is graduate chair in the Department of Anthropology and professor in the Ecology and Health Group in the School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i. She is a past president of ISE. Her previous books include *Eating on the Wild Side: The Pharmacologic, Ecologic, and Social Implications of Using Noncultigens*, also published by the University of Arizona Press.

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University of Arizona Press is pleased to offer a 20% discount to ISE members on the book *Edible Medicines* by *Nina L. Etkin* . The source code is ISEP. If ordering via the web (<http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/>), members will need to enter the source code and 20% discount in the comments field. If ordering over the phone (1-800-426-3797) or email (orders@uapress.arizona.edu), members will need to mention the source code and 20% discount to the ordering clerk.



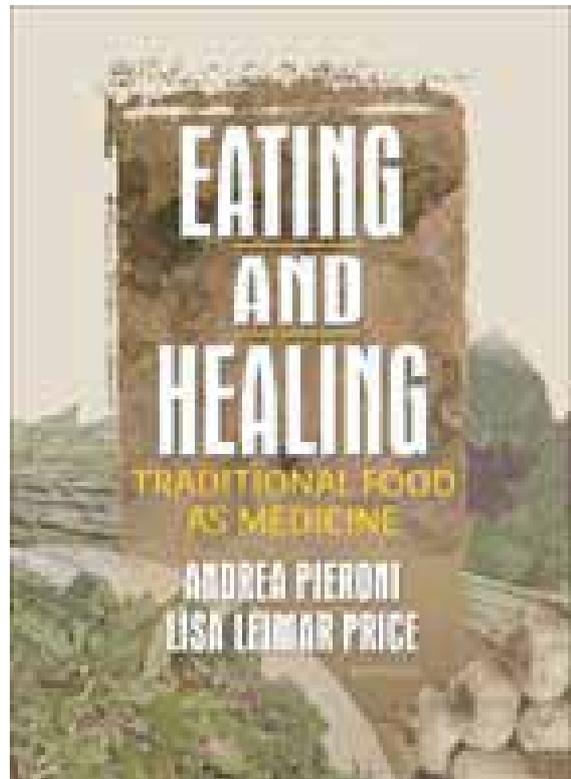
***Eating and Healing.
Traditional Food as Medicine.***

Andrea Pieroni and Lisa Leimar Price (Editors)
16 chapters, 408 pp. with index, illustrations
and photos.
Food Products Press, 2006
US\$ 59.95 hard cover
US\$ 39.95 soft cover

Book Description

This book is aimed at exploring the idea that food can heal. The underlying idea of the volume is that, around the world, indigenous and rural peoples do not separate foods and medicines, but rather conceive them in a continuum. The various chapters of the volume describe a range of wild and semi-domesticated foods that have been traditionally used both as food and medicines. From the use in Spain of herbal teas as digestive beverages, to the antioxidant properties of Tibetan foods, we learn that the consumption of plants and animals in a continuum from food to medicine is not unique to a single culture, but is a common way in which humans use the natural environment.

Although most chapters focus in the use of wild and semi-domesticated plants, the consumption of other foods (such as fish, mushrooms and seaweed) suggests that the continuum between food and medicine is not particular to the plant kingdom, but rather a way of conceptualizing human health. The publication of this volume is timely because it appears in a moment in which the use of food as medicine is gaining attention among the general public in the Western society. This volume, however, presents a refreshing perspective to the link between food intake and health. While to fight the health



problems generated by bad alimentary habits, medical doctors recommend the intake of dietary supplements, and food scientists (e.g. agronomists) work on the development of new miraculous foods containing the nutrients lacking in many diets (such as the golden rice), this book is a call to go back to the essentials, to look at the local resources around us, and to consider the cultural context interwoven with the consumption of foods and medicines.

As a whole, however, the volume does not present an overoptimistic and simplistic approach. Specifically various authors point at three potential caveats of the generalization of the consumption of traditional foods as medicines. First, plants that are highly nutritious have also the potential to be highly toxic, so it is not possible to generalize the consumption of those foods without further inspection. Second, the consumption of traditional food and medicines is culturally prescribed, so abandoning the cultural system associated to the consumption of foods and medicines can result in the loss of effectiveness of those systems. Last, promoting the increasing consumption of given wild foods can have pernicious effects because of overextraction.

In sum, *Eating and Healing* describes the complex uses of plants and animals as food and medicines. It offers new insights in the relation of culture with food and medicines, and in some way it can be said that it opens a new line of research within ethnobiology. The volume would have gained relevance with some more quantitative contributions, and future studies should explore in a more quantitative way some of the topics that appear in this volume. For example, do people who eat more traditional foods enjoy better health? The development of quantitative methods in ethnobiology and in anthropology can help answer in a more convincing way those types of questions.

Victoria Reyes Garcia

About the Authors

Lisa Leimar Price's background is anthropology. Current themes she is involved in teaching and research are: gender, biodiversity, ethnoecology and methodology development

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More news about the book and for orders at
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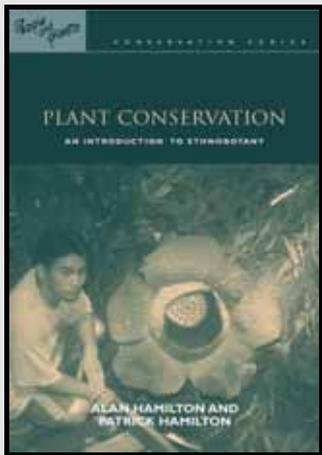
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Hb ~~£80.00~~ **£68.00**
ISBN 184407 082 4
Pub date: February 2006



" Plant conservationists, whether amateur or professional, will want to own and use [this book]. It will certainly be on the reading list for the course I teach on biodiversity assessment." Professor Sir Ghilleen T. Prance, FRS, Former Director of Kew (Full review on p43)

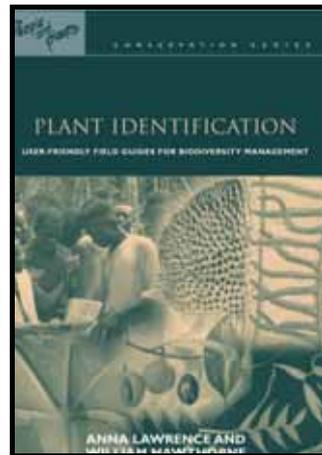
In this, the latest in the *People and Plants Series*, plant conservation is described in the context of development and livelihoods, including ways of balancing the conservation of plant diversity with the productive use of plants and the land.

A central argument in this book is that local people must be involved if conservation is to be successful. Also examined are ways of prioritizing plants and places for conservation initiatives, approaches to *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, and how to approach problems of unsustainable harvesting of wild plants. Roles for botanists, foresters, sociologists, development workers and others are discussed.

This book acts as a unifying text for the *People and Plants Series*, integrating case studies and methodologies described in earlier volumes and pointing out, in a comprehensive accessible volume, the valuable lessons that have been learned.

Alan Hamilton is Manager of the Plant Conservation and Livelihoods Programme of Plantlife International. Formerly he was head of WWF-UK's International Plant Conservation Unit and WWF Co-ordinator of the People and Plants Initiative. **Patrick Hamilton** is Research Fellow at the University of Exeter.

Published with WWF



Plant Identification

CREATING USER-FRIENDLY FIELD GUIDES FOR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

By Anna Lawrence & William Hawthorne

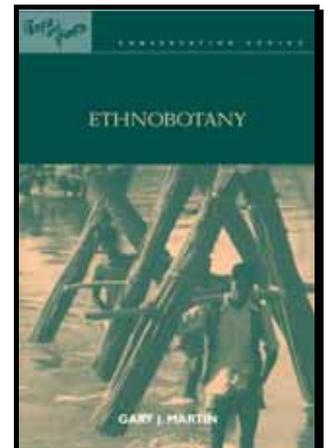
Pb ~~£35.00~~ **£25.45**
ISBN 1844070794
Pub date: December 2005

Universal principles that can be applied in all environments worldwide

This book provides potential authors of field guides with an understanding of the issues and methods suitable for producing user-friendly guides which help to identify plants for the purposes of conservation, sustainable use, participatory monitoring or greater appreciation of biodiversity.

Anna Lawrence leads the Human Ecology Research programme at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute. **William Hawthorne** is a freelance tropical forest botanist and ecologist.

Published with WWF



Ethnobotany

A METHODS MANUAL
By Gary J Martin

Pb ~~£24.95~~ **£21.20**
ISBN 184407 0840
Pub date: 2004

This book, re-issued to meet demand, is the basic introduction to the field.

Ethnobotany draws on a range of disciplines, including natural and social sciences, to show how conservation of plants and local knowledge about them can be achieved.

Ethnobotany is critical to the growing importance of developing new crops and products, such as drugs, from traditional plants.

The book shows how botany, anthropology, ecology, economics and linguistics are all employed in the techniques and methods of ethnobotany.

Gary Martin is Director of the Global Diversity Foundation and Research Fellow and Lecturer in the Anthropology Department at the University of Kent at Canterbury.



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Ethnobotany

<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/172/>



Special Issue 2006: Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)

The Royal Anthropological Institute

The RAI is the world's longest established anthropological organisation, with a global membership. Since 1843, it has been at the forefront of new developments in anthropology and new means of communicating them to a broad audience. Its remit includes all the component fields of anthropology, such as biological, evolutionary, social, cultural and medical anthropology, as well as sub-specialisms within these, and interests shared with neighbouring disciplines such as human genetics, archaeology and linguistics. It seeks to combine a distinguished tradition of scholarship with up-to-the-minute services to anthropology and to all anthropologists, including students. It has a particular commitment to promoting the public understanding of anthropology, as well as the contribution anthropology can make to public affairs and social issues. It includes within its 'constituency' not only University-based academic anthropologists, but also those with a generalist interest in the subject, and those trained in anthropology who work in other, practical or applied, fields. Contact the editor, Glenn Bowman, at jrai@kent.ac.uk, or see our website at <http://www.therai.org.uk/pubs/jrai/jrai.html>

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute

Special Issue 2006: *Ethnobiology and the Science of Humankind*

In 2006 we started a series of Special Issues of the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute. These Special Issues are guest edited and focus on a specific topic. The Special Issue of the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute for 2006 is entitled, *Ethnobiology and the Science of Humankind*. This Special Issue is also available as a book from Blackwell Publishing.

Contents

Roy Ellen *Introduction*

Brent Berlin *The First Congress of Ethnozoological Nomenclature*

Steven Mithen *Ethnobiology and the evolution of the human mind*

David R. Harris *The interplay of ethnographic and archaeological knowledge in the study of past human subsistence in the tropics*

Laura Rival *Amazonian historical ecologies*

Anna Waldstein & Cameron Adams *The interface between medical anthropology and medical ethnobiology*

Paul Sillitoe *Ethnobiology and applied anthropology: rapprochement of the academic with the practical*



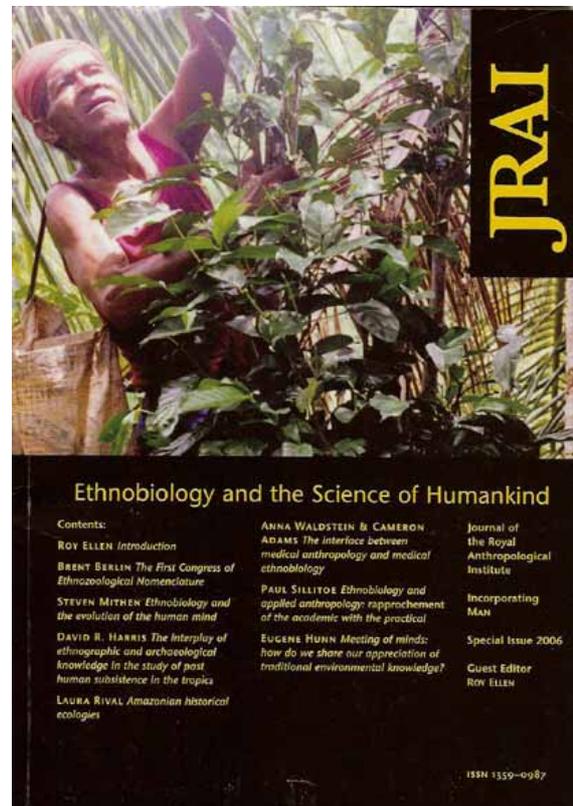
Eugene Hunn *Meeting of minds: how do we share our appreciation of traditional environmental knowledge?*

Glenn Bowman, Editor JRAI

Remarks from the Special Issue Editor

By Roy Ellen

This landmark volume assesses the contribution of recent work in ethnobiology to anthropological thought. Comprising a series of articles written by international scholars, the book considers the ways in which the subject matter and methodologies of ethnobiological research address core anthropological questions about the character of culture, language, cognition, knowledge, subsistence practice and co-evolution. The contributors explore a wide variety of themes including: our understanding of those processes which transform the environment; the evolution of the cultural mind; classification and cognitive science; the character of cultural transmission; ethnobiology and archaeological interpretation; medical ethnobotany in relation to medical anthropology; and local ecological knowledge as applied anthropology. In this way, the book addresses issues of general interest in anthropology and helps to develop the productive relationship between ethnobiology and anthropology.



Key Features

- _ This landmark volume assesses the contribution of recent work in ethnobiology to anthropological thought.
- _ Considers the ways in which the subject matter and methodologies of ethnobiological research address core anthropological questions.
- _ Contributors explore a wide range of themes, such as our understanding of those processes which transform the environment, and the evolution of the cultural mind.
- _ Addresses anthropological issues of general interest, from biology to reflexivity.
- _ Helps to develop the productive relationship between ethnobiology and anthropology.

Readership

upper level students, researchers and academics in anthropology, ethnobiology, ethnobotany, archaeology, and cognitive science

About the Editor

Roy Ellen is Professor of Anthropology and Human Ecology at the University of Kent at Canterbury. His research, mainly focussed on island southeast Asia, has spanned issues in ethnobiological classification, the ecology of swidden cultivation, deforestation and inter-island trade. His previous publications include *On the Edge of the Banda Zone* (2003), *The Cultural Relations of Classification* (1993) and *Environment, Subsistence and System* (1982).



Learn More About Another Organization



Medicus Mundi Schweiz

**Netzwerk Gesundheit für alle
Réseau Santé pour tous
Network Health for All**

Medicus Mundi Switzerland

Medicus Mundi Switzerland (MMS) is a network of 48 Swiss organizations working in the field of international health. MMS promotes and facilitates the sharing of knowledge, know-how and expertise among its members and partners and is striving to establish a living community of practice. The ultimate ambition of the network is to improve the health of disadvantaged people throughout the world, as expressed by the manifesto: "Health for All: A Realistic Task"

To reach this goal, MMS has established various projects and services to improve the collaboration and the exchange of knowledge among the Swiss organizations. Detailed information can be found at our website: www.medicusmundi.ch. The network also benefits greatly from fertile partnerships with a range of organizations and institutions in Switzerland and abroad, for example, The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), Medicus Mundi International (MMI) and the People's Health Movement (PHM).

The MMS Bulletin

The Bulletin, published quarterly, is one of the services of our network. The journal includes contributions from our members and partners, collaborators in scientific institutions and experts from all over the world. The bulletin delivers background information, field reports and new developments and analyses in the field of international health.

Issue No. 100 from April 2006 is dedicated to the topic **"Health and Cultural Dynamics"** and illuminates the many different aspects of "Traditional Medicine" from a contemporary perspective. The contributions in the first part concentrate on "The change in cultural health concepts." What this means is described in the analyses in the first article by Brigit Obrist and Piet van Eeuwijk: the ways individuals understand and deal with health and illness are not fixed by their culture of origin. Rather, in confrontations and interactions with a heterogeneous and ever-changing environment, health and illness are continually re-experienced and re-translated into daily practices. The second part of this issue addresses "Herbal medicine in a global context" and explains the aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as the significance and potential of herbal medicine in developing countries. The last part of the journal, "Migration and health inside the Swiss health care system." discusses how to overcome cultural obstacles to access to western medical institutions, and identifies the "transcultural competencies" required by medical institutions that wish to offer their services to clients from ethnic minorities.

Contents of the issue:

- Brigit Obrist and Peter van Eeuwijk: Health and illness as a cultural process (German)
- Claudia Sauerborn and Sohini Banerjee: Cultural dimensions of suicidal behavior (English)
- Sonja Merten: masoto= malnutrition? (German)
- Bernhard Wörrle: Patient behavior and culture – ethnomedical research findings from Latin America (German)
- Walter Bruchhausen: Health programs as an attack on "traditional values"? (German)
- Kate Molesworth: Negotiating sexual and reproductive health: culture matters (English)
- Barbara Frei-Haller: Herbal medicine: who benefits from the green treasure? (German)
- Susette Biber-Klemm: Biodiversity, culture and health (English)
- Alex Matter, Rainer von Mielecki and Marcel Tanner: Affordable AIDS medicines (English)
- Dagmar Domenig: The path to equal opportunities in health (German)

- Martine Verwey: Are qualified personnel under permanent pressure? (German)
- Susanne Bachmann: Female genital mutilation: a taboo becomes an issue (German)
- Christa Spycher: Sexual and reproductive health: specific consultation offers in Switzerland (German)
- Jean Martin: Working as a foreign physician ... in Switzerland (French)
- Ursula Steiner König: Italian air in a home for the aged (German)

Please contact us if you are interested in the printed edition of the Bulletin or would like additional information about

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More Upcoming Conferences

- August 29-September 2, 2006 – University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland -- International Congress and 54th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research / GA --- <http://www.ga2006.fi/>
- September 11-16, 2006 – Metz, France -- Formation en Ethnopharmacologie appliquéeThèmes --- Société Française d'Ethnopharmacologie, Institut Européen d'Ecologie Formation continue Ethnopharmacologie appliquée de la plante médicinale au médicament - --- <http://www.tela-botanica.org/actu/article76.html>
- October 27-29, 2006 – Heidelberg, Germany -- 19. Fachkonferenz Ethnomedizin: Ethnologie und Medizin im Dialog. Lebenswelten, Geschichte und die Konstruktion von Anthropologien. Heidelberg, Völkerkundemuseum und Universität. Contact: AGEM - curare, c/o Ekkehard Schröder, Spindelstrasse 3, 14482 Potsdam ee.schroeder@t-online.de
- October 29-November 1st, 2006 - Tel-Aviv, Israel -- The Fourth International Conference on Mechanisms of Action of Nutraceuticals (ICMAN 4) --- <http://www.evetopf.org/icman4/>
- November 5 - 9, 2006 - Dusit Island Resort, Chiang Rai, Thailand -- The 10th International Congress of Ethnobiology (ICE): "Ethnobiology, Biodiversity and Community Development" --- The International Society of Ethnobiology and Khon Kaen University ---- www.ice2006.org
- November 20-24, 2006 – Club Amigo Hotel, Varadero Beach, Cuba -- FAPRONATURA 2006 / I Simposio De Farmacología De Los Productos Naturales / I Simposio De BLACPMA / I Reunión Del Consejo Editorial De BLACPMA / III Taller De Farmacovigilancia / IV Taller International De Ensayos Clínicos ---- <http://www.scf.sld.cu/natprod/portada.htm> - OR <http://www.scf.sld.cu/natprod/en/portada-en.htm>
- November 23-25, 2006 – Kowloon Shangria-La Hotel, Hong Kong – 2006 World Congress on Chinese Medicine, Charting the course of development, Eying on better application --- School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University --- <http://www.mvdm.com/cm2006/>



And Even More Upcoming Conferences...

- 31 de outubro à 4 de novembro de 2006 - Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil -- VI Simpósio Brasileiro de Etnobiologia e Etnoecologia --- www.ufrgs.br/desma/visbee
- November 30-December 2, 2006 - Mexico, D.F., Mexico -- Primer Congreso Iberoamericano de Fitoterapia: "Contribuciones de la flora regional a la medicina actual" --- Organizado por: Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo (CYTED) y Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) ---- <http://www.fitoterapia.net/congreso/congreso.html>
- May 10-12, 2007 – Leipzig, Germany -- GRASSI Museum --- 6th European Colloquium of Ethnopharmacology under the auspices of the European Society of Ethnopharmacology (ESE) and 20th Conference of Ethnomedizin organized by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ethnomedizin (AGEM): New Trends in Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology ---- <http://ethnopharma.free.fr/6thcolloquium.htm>
- June 4-7, 2007 - Chicago, Illinois -- Chicago Botanic Garden --- 48th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany --- by The Field Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University ---- <http://www.seb2007.com/>
- September, 2007, - Surabaya, Indonesia - Indonesian Association of Researchers on Natural Products Medicine (PERHIPBA) -- International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Medicinal Plants: "Women's Health and Traditional Medicine" --- organized by: PERHIPBA and Surabaya Private University, Airlangga State University and Widya Mandala Catholic University.
- October 5-6, 2007 - Vinci, Italy -- Center of Natural Medicine, S.Giuseppe Hospital --- ETM 2007 European Traditional Medicine , First International Congress on Ethnomedicine and Ethnopharmacology of European Countries --- www.medicinanaturale.us111.tos.it/dati/etm%202007.pd

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Latest News from Elsevier

Increasing Impact Factor for the Journal of Ethnopharmacology!

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Selected top cited articles 2004-2005:

Sparg, S.G., Light, M.E., Van Staden, J.

Biological activities and distribution of plant saponins

Journal of Ethnopharmacology 94 (2-3), pp. 219-243.

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Dhawan, K., Dhawan, S., Sharma, A.

Passiflora: A review update

Journal of Ethnopharmacology 94 (1), pp. 1-23.

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Heinrich, M., Teoh, H.L.

Galanthamine from snowdrop - The development of a modern drug against Alzheimer's disease from local Caucasian knowledge

Journal of Ethnopharmacology 92 (2-3), pp. 147-162.

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Anticancer and immunostimulatory compounds from *Andrographis paniculata*

Journal of Ethnopharmacology 92 (2-3), pp. 291-295.

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Conference Report

Pharmacovigilance of herbal medicines: current state and future directions, April 26 to 28, 2006, London

Dr Joanne Barnes, Associate Professor in Herbal Medicines, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland, New Zealand, in association with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences have organized a conference on *Pharmacovigilance of herbal medicine* between April 26 to 28 in London (note by bfh). Partners in the meeting were the European Scientific Co-operative on Phytotherapy (ESCOP), the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP), the World Health Organisation's Uppsala Monitoring Centre (Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring) and the School of Pharmacy, University of London and the Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzen (GA). The conference was attended by over 120 delegates from over 30 countries worldwide.

The meeting included sessions on risk management, risk minimisation and risk modification for herbal medicinal products (HMPs), with presentations from Professor Phil Routledge, chairman of the new Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee in the UK, and Professor Peter de Smet (Scientific Association of Dutch Pharmacists, Netherlands). Dr June Raine and Dr Linda Anderson, both from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the UK discussed regulatory pharmacovigilance and its relevance to HMPs, and regulation of herbal medicine practitioners in the UK, respectively. In a



session on quality issues, Dr Mohamed Farah (WHO-UMC) and Dr Bob Allkin (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK) emphasised the need for an internationally accepted directory of botanical names, and Professor Arnold Vlietinck (University of Antwerp, Belgium) described implications of quality of HMPs with respect to safety and efficacy.

Dr Jan Bruhn (Inbio, Sweden) chaired a session comprising oral presentations of submitted abstracts, including results of a cross-sectional study of the herbal pharmacovigilance activities of National Pharmacovigilance Centres (A Aggarwal, School of Pharmacy, University of London and J Barnes, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland) and an assessment of the quality of published reports of suspected adverse drug reactions associated with HMPs (T Wegener, Germany).

An entire session was devoted to spontaneous reporting schemes initiated by the herbal sector, such as those developed by the UK National Institute of Medical Herbalists and the UK Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine. Dr Alex Dodoo (National Pharmacovigilance Centre, Ghana) presented the traditional healers' perspective on herbal safety. Other perspectives on herbal safety and ADR reporting discussed in this session included ESCOP (S Mills, ESCOP), the herbal industry (S Köhler, Schwabe, Germany), the pharmaceutical industry (R Tiner, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry) and consumers (J Barnes, University of Auckland).

The last day of the meeting focused on tools and techniques in herbal pharmacovigilance. Professor Ralph Edwards (Director, WHO-UMC) described the UMC's experiences and activities in global monitoring of herbal safety, and there were several presentations from individuals representing national pharmacovigilance centres (A Dodoo, Ghana; Y Chen, China; U Hagemann, Germany).

Andrew Bate (WHO-UMC) described the Bayesian statistical approach used by the WHO-UMC as a step in its signal detection work, including for herbal signals.

Several speakers discussed the potential for the use of observational data in herbal pharmacovigilance. John Parkinson (General Practice Research Database, UK) explored how the GPRD could be used in herbal safety investigations, and others described practitioner-prescription-based models for monitoring safety of HMPs (D Layton, Drug Safety Research Unit, Southampton, UK; M Schaefer, Berlin).

The conference closed with a session looking towards the future with presentations on pharmacogenomics and HMPs (M Pirmohamed, Liverpool, UK) and communication of information on herbal safety concerns (B Hugman, Thailand).

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