

# ISE Newsletter

August 2008, Volume 7, Issue 1

## President's Message

### *Hello ISE Members*

Although that small stack of yuan (from the NICE 2006 meeting held in Nanning, Guangxi, P.R.China) is still on my desk, we are now very close to our next meeting in Brazil. As you will see elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter, our meeting is scheduled to be held from 16 to 19 September, 2008, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Our goal in this meeting is to optimize member contact, networking, and encouraging personal relationships. We will have a range of opportunities for members to discuss subjects carefully and personally, rather than only listening to a speaker at the podium. I believe that the most valuable part of a conference is the opportunities it gives for people with shared interests to come together, to talk, to exchange business cards (Wow! Remember China!!), and to consider collaboration, interaction, and future activities. I have long thought that the best part of conferences was what happened in the hallways after talks (or in the bar); at this meeting, we will do our best to create real opportunities for such interaction, beyond the contingent "meeting in the hallway."

Be sure to get your presentations or your poster ready (or both). I look forward to seeing you all in Sao Paulo.

With best regards

*Dan Moerman*  
*President, ISE (2006-2008)*  
William E Stirton Professor Emeritus of Anthropology,  
University of Michigan-Dearborn, USA

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## Up-coming ISE meeting

### ***The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Ethnopharmacology TICE 2008, to be held in São Paulo, Brazil: September 16-19, 2008***

Dear Colleagues,

We would be delighted to welcome you to São Paulo at the X International Congress of Ethnopharmacology (X ICE). As you know, this year the International Society for Ethnopharmacology has chosen to hold its biannual Congress as a joint event with the XX Simpósio de Plantas Mediciniais do Brasil (XX SPMB). This choice was partly associated with the opportunity we shall have to teach, learn and eventually establish scientific cooperation with participants of this event — now 40 years

old — entirely focused on medicinal plants research.

We are pleased to have registered participants from 42 countries so far. This fact alone will add to the prolificacy of these coming days in São Paulo. Socio-biodiversity is key to ethnopharmacology, so it is appropriate that you will find yourself in a highly diverse cultural setting, which starts from Brazil itself and extends to many regions and cultures. It is common to say that Brazil is in fact many countries within one. Being one of the mega-diverse countries in the world (a fact not exactly noticeable from a high rise on Avenida

Paulista), we have a perfect background for an ethnopharmacology meeting. I would also like to inform you that out of the nearly 1,700 registered participants, we will have 706 undergraduate students and 469 graduate students. These students are directly engaged in research projects in one of the various topics relevant to ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research, including agronomy, botany, chemistry, ethnopharmacology, pharmacology and their many correlated disciplines. Therefore, we are expecting to have not only interesting and lively discussions along with the conferences, round tables, workshops, mini-courses and

poster sessions, but also hope that the many coffee breaks, *cafezinhos*, *chopps* and *caipirinhas* will be opportunities for fruitful scientific and pleasant social interaction. Last but not least, I trust you will find São Paulo an amazing place to be. I also trust that these days in São Paulo will prompt you to come back to Brazil – as a tourist to visit the many marvelous places there are to know or, hopefully, as a collaborator in a new exciting scientific project.

*Elaine Elisabetsky*  
*Coordinator of Local Organizing*  
*Committee to X ICE*



## XX Symposium of Brazilian Medicinal Plants X International Congress of Ethnopharmacology

Frei Caneca Convention Center - September 16 – 19, 2008

For further information please go to <http://www.plantasmedicinais.unifesp.br/en/insc.htm>



## Conference Report from ISE Biennial Conference

### *The 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Ethnopharmacology NICE 2006, held in Nanning, Guangxi, P.R.China*

Two years have passed since ISE members, domestic and foreign researchers interested in ethnopharmacology, business people and state council representatives gathered in Nanning to attend a very exciting and most elaborately organized biennial meeting.

More than 500 people from over 30 different countries attended the Ninth International Congress of Ethnopharmacology from August 22 to 26, 2006.

The Conference was held under the auspices of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) and co-sponsored by the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, People's Republic of China, and the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. During these five days of high level of scholarly, intellectual, and collegial activities the city of Nanning was visually and intellectually transformed into the ethnopharmacological navel of the world!





This was the second time that an ISE congress was held in China, the first being in 1994. The Li Yuan Resort, the reception base of China-ASEAN Expo hosted the venue in a very aesthetic and gracious park with excellent conference facilities. The new conference centre is situated on the outskirts of the fast-growing city of Nanning, which has a sub-tropical climate conducive to the growth of many medicinal plant species that do not grow further north.

The Congress attracted significant coverage in local and national television, radio, and newspapers. Many interviewers asked how traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) could be modernized. But what was really being asked was, “How can TCM be marketable for use in mainstream medicine in the West?” Peter Houghton’s, Professor in Pharmacognosy at King’s College London and immediate past-president of the ISE gave the standard replies



(1) “Make sure that quality and composition are well standardized and controlled” and (2) “Well-designed and conducted clinical trials are needed to make an impact on the majority of Western mainstream medical practitioners.”

There was a large presence from manufacturers and suppliers of TCM herbs and

herb-derived products at the Congress. One such supplier subsidized a spectacular cultural evening that represented the ethnic diversity of Guangxi, which is home to several cultural groups such as the Zhao and Miao. These groups include millions of people, and each group has its own distinctive system of traditional medicine.

Possibly the most distinguishing feature from similar conferences held in the West were the stories of how modern scientific research has led to herbal products being used successfully in clinical situations throughout China. The usefulness of ephedra (*Ephedra sinica* Stapf., Ephedraceae) in relieving some respiratory conditions is well-known, and the introduction of artemisinin as a modern antimalarial is one of the most impressive pharmacognostical success stories of the last 15 years. Artemisinin is derived from the ancient Chinese herb *qing hao*, *Artemisia annua* L. [Fisch. ex Link] Bunge, Asteraceae. *Yi yi ren* (aka *yi yi jen*), the extract from the oil of the seeds of job’s tears (*Coix lacryma-jobi* Stapf., Poaceae), is the active component of *Kanglaite* Injection, which is now used widely as an anticancer drug in China and Japan and is in the early stages of clinical trials for use to ameliorate the side effects of cancer chemotherapy.

Many interesting and well-presented plenary lectures were given on a wide range of topics covering pharmacology, aspects of conservation, commercialization, intellectual property rights, education of young people about medicinal plants, and new analytical methods. These were supplemented by a large number of fascinating short talks and posters covering a huge variety of ethnopharmacological topics.

Our society was able to give three awards for student’s poster contributions. The award recipients were:

1) Ying Xie, Zhi-hong Jiang, Hua ZHOU, Hong-xi Xu, Liang Liu; School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, China; Hong Kong Jockey Club Institute of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong, China: *Simultaneous Determination of Six Aconitum Alkaloids in Proprietary Chinese Medicines by HPLC*.

2) Mea Van Huyssteen, Maryna Van De Venter, Pieter J Milne; Department of Pharmacy, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, PO Box 77000, Nelson



Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elisabeth, 6031 South Africa: *Collaborative Medicinal Plant Research with Traditional African Healers in the Nelson Mandela Metropole, South Africa.*

3) Manuel Pardo-De-Santayana, Michael Heinrich; Centre for Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, The School of Pharmacy, University of London, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX, UK: *The Historical Evolution of the medicinal use of Sage (Salvia officinalis L.), A Potential Remedy in the Treatment of Alzheimer's disease and Other Neuro-degenerative Disorders.*

Professor Gustavo Gonzales of the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Altura, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, discussed recent studies on the pharmacology and clinical effects of *maca*, the root (technically the hypocotyle) of a cruciferous plant (*Lepidium meyenii* Walp., Brassicaceae) that has been cultivated for many centuries in the Andean highlands in Peru. This has become a major export over the last 20 years and is incorporated into a variety of preparations sold throughout the world, mainly for its effect on male fertility. Different varieties of *maca* exist, the most common being “yellow *maca*” and others known as “black” and “red” *maca*, the different varieties having demonstrated different effects. The black *maca* is the best at increasing sperm production, and the red variety has produced the best reduction in prostate hyperplasia in rats. Randomized placebo-controlled clinical studies in men carried out in 2000 and 2001 showed an increase in sperm count, sexual desire, and a decrease in anxiety in the group treated with yellow *maca*. Toxicity studies showed little adverse effects when *maca* was given at doses up to 10g/kg in rats. Several papers were presented on the application of fatty acid synthase inhibitors from plants used traditionally in China for hundreds of years for weight reduction. Wei-xi Tian, PhD, from Graduate University, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, singled out the strong activity of extracts from mistletoe species (in the family Loranthaceae) and discussed how extracts of these plants might act and how they could be applied to the reduction of obesity.

Managing resources of medicinal plants was covered by several speakers but highlighted by Jian-hua Miao, PhD, the director of the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in Nanning. Dr. Miao described the cultivation of *Spatholobus suberectus* Dunn (Fabaceae) for the dried rhizome, which is used for menstrual problems. Sales are now equivalent to over one million US dollars a year, and the pressure of ensuring adequate supplies has entailed a detailed cultivation program to protect the plants growing wild from over-collection. Extensive chemical and pharmacological investigations are also being conducted so that standardized material of good quality can be made available. Peter Hylands, PhD, of Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Division, King's College London, and Rudi Bauer, PhD, of the Karl-Franzens Universität in Graz, Austria, were among those who discussed ways in which complexity of traditional medicines, especially those from China, could be adequately covered by analytical methods to guarantee standardization. Professor Hylands described how the application of Principal Component Analysis of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra of total crude extracts could differentiate and characterize extracts of one species grown in a particular place and under specified conditions. The ISE business assembly was held in a pleasant atmosphere on the evening of August 24. Sixteen members of ISE followed the agenda under the direction of the president Peter Houghton. The financial report sent by the treasurer Andrea Pieroni (who at the last moment had to cancel his participation), was presented. The President pointed out the fact that there had been costs involved in transferring the account from Denmark to the U.K. The clarity of the ledger was remarked on and, despite a few losses, the importance of the final balance being positive was highlighted. Elaine Elisabetsky wished to give recognition for the work performed by the treasurer and this was followed by unanimous applause as a way of thanks. Among the documents handed out was the proposal, presented by Peter Houghton, from the firm AssociAction Enterprises Ltd aiming to take charge of the society's financial matters. Peter Houghton remarked on some of the advantages of the proposal such as credit card facilities and administration. A trial run for a few years to see how it worked out was



accepted. The need for attracting new members and ways of doing so, was pointed out as an important strategy for the future of the society. The proposal by Elaine Elisabetsky to host the next congress in Brazil was accepted and followed by unanimous applause.

The assembly then moved to the election of Officers (2006-2008), which were elected as follows:

President	Daniel E. Moerman	<a href="mailto:dmoerman@umich.edu">dmoerman@umich.edu</a>
Past President	Peter Houghton	<a href="mailto:peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk">peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk</a>
Past Past President	Elaine Elisabetsky	<a href="mailto:elisasky@ufrgs.br">elisasky@ufrgs.br</a>
President Elect	Michael Heinrich	<a href="mailto:michael.heinrich@ulsop.ac.uk">michael.heinrich@ulsop.ac.uk</a>
Honorary Board Member	Nina Etkin	<a href="mailto:etkin@hawaii.edu">etkin@hawaii.edu</a>
	Xiao Peigen	<a href="mailto:XiaoPG@public.bta.net.cn">XiaoPG@public.bta.net.cn</a>
	Ulla Smit	
	Laurent Rivier	<a href="mailto:laurent.rivier@inst.hospvd.ch">laurent.rivier@inst.hospvd.ch</a>
Treasurer	Peter Houghton	<a href="mailto:peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk">peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk</a>
Secretary	Cristina Inocencio	<a href="mailto:cpretel@um.es">cpretel@um.es</a>
Auditors	Anna Jäger	<a href="mailto:ankj@dfuni.dk">ankj@dfuni.dk</a>
	Sarah Edwards	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Edwards@pharmacy.ac.uk">Sarah.Edwards@pharmacy.ac.uk</a>
Board Members	Johannes Van Staden	<a href="mailto:vanstadenj@ukzn.ac.za">vanstadenj@ukzn.ac.za</a>
	Rudolph Bauer	<a href="mailto:rudolf.bauer@uni-graz.at">rudolf.bauer@uni-graz.at</a>
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	Palpu Pushpangadan	<a href="mailto:pushpangadan@isfy.com">pushpangadan@isfy.com</a>
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On the last morning, a visit was made to the Guangxi Botanic Garden of Medicinal Plants, just outside Nanning. This beautiful garden covers several acres, and its plants are arranged according to their therapeutic indications, with both Chinese and Western classifications displayed. A large new research centre is being built on the site. The most touching event of the Congress occurred when delegates and local schoolchildren planted a grove of at least 100 small trees to commemorate the Congress.



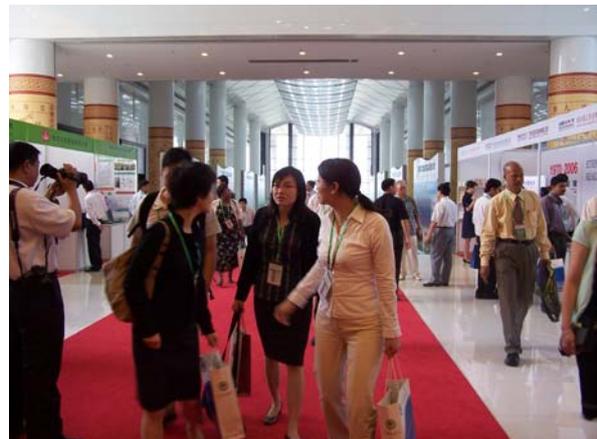
On behalf of the ISE we would like to thank the Chinese organizers, and especially the people from IMPLAD, for a very successful 9th Biannual Meeting.



The conference would not have been possible without the generous support from ministries, the State Council, the State Administration of Traditional Medicine, medical, pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies, as well as the National Natural Science foundation of China. The participants are also indebted to many students from different local universities who have supported the conference as translators, guides and general helping hands.

We are looking forward to the next 2008 ISE Congress, which is being held in September 16-19, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

*Peter Houghton  
Cristina Inocencio  
Barbara Frei Haller*





## Obituary

### *Dr. Miguel Angel Martinez Alfaro (1942-2007)*

On 9.02.2007, the well known Mexican ethnobotanist Miguel Angel Martínez Alfaro passed away. For many decades he was an outspoken ambassador of Mexican ethnobotany and an advocate of the study of Indigenous Mexican knowledge systems as well as of the sustainable use and conservation of Indigenous biotic resources. He was also the tutor of many of the younger researchers, who were trained at Mexico's National Autonomous University. However, maybe most importantly, he was a friend to many of us – Mexicans and non-Mexicans – interested in Mexican Indigenous peoples and their plant use. Discussions with him were always extremely interesting, his eyes sparkling with excitement. Miguel Angel was always keen to learn about one's research and was equally interested to share his many experiences. From the first second one met him, everyone knew how important Indigenous rights were to him and how much he admired Indigenous people's knowledge of the environment. And, again and again there was this very special, broad and friendly smile, which embraced everyone.



A 'chilango' by birth, he studied at the national Autonomous University (UNAM) and in 1970 obtained his *licenciatura* in biology. One of his best known publications was published in one of the early issues of the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* and focused on the use of

plants, animals and minerals in treating illness among the mountain dwelling Totonacs (Totonacos de la Sierra). He analysed herbal remedies and traditional medicine, but also the role of Western medicine in Totonac life. Thus he was one of the first ethnobotanists to note the role of such introduced medical knowledge: '..... the *curanderos* use patent medicine to treat certain diseases, i.e., they mix elements of traditional medicine with pharmaceuticals like antibiotics, antiparasitics and skin ointments; there are even two *curanderos* who expressed their wish to learn allopathic medicine to become more efficient in their diagnoses and cures.' (Martinez Alfaro 1984). He was one of the researchers who in the 1970's was associated with the *Instituto Mexicano para el Estudios de Plantas Medicinales* (IMEPLAM). For many years he worked for the *Instituto de Biología* of the UNAM and in the National Botanical Garden. From 1987 to 1990 he served as the garden's director (Caballero 2007).

He is survived by his wife, another very active ethnobotanist and researcher at the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social – Abigail Aguilar, with whom he had also collaborated for many years and they jointly authored many publications (e.g. Martínez Alfaro and Aguilar 2001). Miguel has left us much too early and he will be missed by all the colleagues who knew him and who were infected by his wit and smile. *¡Miguel, que descanses en Paz!*

- Caballero, Javier (2007) Obituary Miguel Angel Martínez, Alfaro. *BLACPMA [Boletín Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Plantas Medicinales y Aromáticas]*. 6 (2), 28 – 29.
- Martínez Alfaro, Miguel A. (1984) Medicinal plants used in a Totonac community of the Sierra Norte de Puebla: Tuzamapan de Galeana, Puebla, México. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 11, (2), 203-221.
- Martínez Alfaro, Miguel y Abigail Aguilar (2001) Conocimiento y manejo de la naturaleza, En: M.E. Rodríguez, y X. Martínez P. *Medicina Novohispanica, Siglo XVIII. Historia General de la Medicina en México. Academia Nacional de Medicina y Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México, D.F.*

Michael Heinrich





## Obituary

### ***Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Albert Hofmann (1906-2008)***

Albert Hofmann, 102, Swiss chemist, father of LSD, honorary member of ASP and GA and Dr. h.c. mult. (ETH Zurich, Free University of Berlin, Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm), died April 29, 2008 – four months after his beloved wife Anita – at his home in Burg, a village near Basel, Switzerland. Hofmann was born in Baden, a spa and industrial town near Zurich, on January 11, 1906. After a commercial apprenticeship he studied chemistry at the University of Zurich under the direction of Professor Paul Karrer, a future Nobel laureate. His doctoral thesis dealt with the structure elucidation of chitin, the cellulose-like structural material found in numerous classes of animals, such as insects and crustaceans. After completing his PhD thesis he joined Sandoz in Basel in 1929 as he had a vivid interest in this company’s research program – isolation and synthesis of the active principles from medicinal plants for the development of plant-based medicines. He worked in the pharmaceutical/chemical research laboratories of Sandoz until his retirement in 1971, first as a coworker of Prof. Arthur Stoll, later as a group leader and finally – for the last 15 years of his career – as head of the natural products department. His initial research at Sandoz involved the structural elucidation of cardiac glycosides from squill (*Scilla maritima*) and ergot (*Secale cornutum* from *Claviceps purpurea*) alkaloids. In the course of his research, he produced a number of highly successful pharmaceutical products, including Hydergine® (dihydroergotoxine), Methergine® (methylergometrine) and Dihydroergot® (dihydroergotamine). In 1938, while working on the synthesis of ergot alkaloids, he isolated lysergic acid and synthesized a series of lysergic acid derivatives, including lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). In 1943, Albert Hofmann detected its psychotropic activity in a self-experiment conducted on April 19. His bicycle ride home from the laboratory on that day has passed into drug lore as the first LSD trip. Subsequently he became world-renowned as the father of LSD. The discovery of LSD

opened the door to psychopharmacology, and paved the way for the understanding of the biochemistry of the neurotransmitters serotonin and dopamine during the following decades. Later he isolated other psychoactive compounds such as psilocybin and psilocin from the Mexican sacred mushroom *Psilocybe mexicana* and identified the active constituents of “Ololiuqui” (*Rivea corymbosa*, a Mexican vine), which are closely related to LSD. Thanks to Dr. Hofmann’s contribution in the area of medicinal chemistry, Sandoz not only enjoyed long-term commercial success but was also held in high esteem by scientists in pharmaceutical and medical circles. After its discovery, LSD was viewed as a wonder drug with the potential to treat psychotic problems including schizophrenia. Under the name of Delyside® it was studied clinically for ten years and showed great promise as a pharmacological aid in psychoanalysis. However, LSD not only elicited great interest among psychiatrists but also became the preferred drug of hippie and other subcultures, and found expression in the fine arts and in music. The partially uncontrolled consumption led to a global ban of LSD in the sixties, even of its use for therapeutic and scientific purposes. According to Dr. Hofmann this decision was politically rather than scientifically motivated. Albert Hofmann is the author of more than hundred scientific papers and several books. The legendary story of the LSD discovery and the initial experiments in humans are vividly recounted by Hofmann in his book “LSD – mein Sorgenkind” (1979) which was translated into English as “LSD – My Problem Child” (1980). LSD was surely the most sensational of all compounds ever synthesized in Basel, and the most powerful psychotropic substance known. Since his retirement from professional life, he has devoted himself increasingly to philosophical reflections on the experience of nature, publishing a collection of essays “Einsichten– Ausblicke” (published in English as “Insight –Outlook”) as well as an illustrated



volume entitled “Lob des Schauens” (“In Praise of Contemplation”). His fundamental credo is published in “Insight – Outlook”: “I believe that the significance of the natural sciences in the evolution of human society does not lie primarily in the fact that they provided the basis for the development of modern technologies and industries that have radically changed our lives and our planet, but rather in the fact that they can open people’s eyes to the wonder of creation and to the unity of all life on earth, of which humanity is a part. If this knowledge fully entered public consciousness, it could form the basis of a new spirituality and help to resolve our current spiritual, social and environmental problems”. 2007 Hofmann was elected by the readers of the English newspaper “Guardian” as one of the “world’s top 10 living geniuses”. In celebration of Albert Hofmann’s 100th birthday (January 11, 2006) a special book “Grenzgänge” (“Exploring the Frontiers”) was written by his friends to pay tribute to the scientist and man. Dr. Hofmann was not only a scientist with a philosophical bent; he also remained a cheerful and good-humored man until the end of his life. Everyone was impressed by his phenomenal knowledge not only of chemistry and physics but also of literature, music and arts in general. He enjoyed long restorative walks in the woods around his beautiful house in the countryside, red books of baroque literature in the original

and corresponded with friends and colleagues around the world.



(Picture taken by Rudolf Brenneisen)

Albert Hofmann was always convinced that only physicians should handle LSD and other psychedelic drugs. He was deeply disappointed by the worldwide ban of LSD also in therapy and research in the sixties. So it is not surprising that he judged the approval in 2007 of an LSD study in Switzerland, the first trial in the past 35 years, as a fulfillment of the dream.

*Otto Sticher, Prof. em.  
ETH Zürich, Switzerland*



## Books/Mediums you should have a look at

### ***Plant Identification. Creating user-friendly guides for biodiversity management***

Anna Lawrence and William Hawthorne. 2006. Earthscan. London, UK and Sterling, VA, USA. 268 pp. People and Plants Conservation Series. Numerous tables and b&w figures; eight colour plates, references, list of acronyms and abbreviations, index. ISBN 0-8165-2093-3, £ 35.—(pb).

Creating field guides which can be used locally in order to identify plants for the purposes of

conservation, sustainable use, participatory research or ecological education can potentially have significant impact on the conservation of biodiversity. In the field of ethnopharmacology field guides have been used for disseminating results of research about local food and medicinal plants, other researchers have used them for disseminating information about forest products and other useful plants. An important use is in ecotourism, where visitors are to be provided with essential information about biodiversity related topics. Such field guides are targeted to particular user groups and developing them is not only a scientific challenge, but also requires interaction with the various



stakeholders, translation of scientific facts into a more widely understood terminology and careful economical and administrative planning. This very specific topic is at the centre of 'Plant Identification', published in a series which is rightfully called 'People and Plants Conservation Series'. It is a joint effort of the WWF, UNESCO and the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew. This book draws both on participatory and scientific processes and in nine chapters it presents the core requirements and tools for producing such a field guide: Identifying biodiversity: Why do we need field guides?

Producing a successful guide: Principles, purpose, people and process

- Planning and budgeting
- Plant names and botanical publications
- Identification: Key and other access methods
- Plant characteristics suitable for field guides
- Information: Finding it and presenting it
- Illustration
- Testing the field guide
- Publishing the field guide

The authors very successfully integrate a participatory approach for community based research with an overview of botanical, scientific methods as well as the practicalities of making sure that such guides are actually published and available to the users. They use a large number of case studies to highlight potential problems and how they can be solved. In the chapter on plant names and botanical publications problems both with local and with the (still not quite) universal binomial nomenclature are discussed. The emphasis in this chapter is, as in the others, on

how go about creating a field guide and which errors one should avoid. The authors are always keen to include practical tips. The book shows that while one can rely on some general guidelines, mostly there is no single (or even a simple) answer for how to create a field guide. Instead the decision-making process regarding which format is likely to be best suited for the local needs is at the centre of the book.

Unfortunately, the main title 'plant identification' is somewhat of a misnomer. The book is certainly not about identification as such, but about developing science-based, participatory research strategies. Having been involved in preparing field guides for local dissemination about food and medicinal plants for use in Spain, Mexico, and Italy, I am sadly also aware that developing guides according to such a strategy will certainly be time-consuming and expensive. For me, it would really be great to test this new handbook out in such a participatory project. With respect to academic research it certainly will be essential that funding agencies (and academic institutions) become more open to both such a participatory approach and to making the information available locally. This also is an area where non-governmental organizations may influence decision processes or step in as co-funding bodies. Hopefully, the book will serve these purposes and will also make people aware of the complexity of producing locally useful material. The book is well written and while it is targeted to a very specialist group of users, I highly recommend it to everyone interested in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use.

*Michael Heinrich*



***Traditional, Complementary And Alternative Medicine: Policy & Public Health Perspectives***

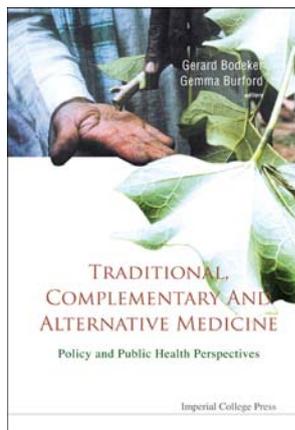
*20% DISCOUNT available for ISE Newsletter readers*

This book edited by RITAM Chairman Prof Gerry Bodeker was published in 2007. It is the first book to address public health issues in

traditional, complementary and alternative medicine (TCAM). It presents state-of-the-art reviews of TCAM research in a range of priority public health areas such as malaria and HIV and in such common ailments as skin conditions and orthopedic injury in developing countries. Contributions analyze policy trends in areas such as financing of TCAM, education and training in this field as well as selected case studies of model TCAM projects. Important chapters on research methodology, ethical and safety issues, and intellectual



property rights pertaining to traditional medicine are also presented.



Public financing for TCAM is a test of the commitment of governments, and the book includes an analysis from the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Atlas data of the worldwide trends in this area. With safety concerns foremost in the minds of both policy makers and the public, the book offers a global overview of policy and legislative trends in this field as well as an important set of guidelines for pharmacovigilance and TCAM products.

The publisher is offering a 20% discount on orders placed until December 31, 2008, by quoting the discount code P419E when ordering on the book's webpage:

<http://www.icpress.co.uk/medsci/p419.html>



### *Upcoming Conferences*

- Sept 7–10, 2008 - Quedlinburg, Germany - “39th International Symposium on Essential Oils (ISEO 2008)” - [www.gdch.de/iseo2008](http://www.gdch.de/iseo2008).
- September 16-19, 2008 - São Paulo, Brazil - Centro de Conveções Frei Caneca - 10th International Congress of Ethnopharmacology of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) and XX Simopósio Brasileiro de Plantas Mediciniais (Brazilian Symposium of Medicinal Plants) - <http://www.plantasmeciniais.unifesp.br/en/home.htm>
- September 23-26, 2008- Napels, Italy - Faculty of Economy of Naples University Federico II, - Natural Products in Cancer Therapy - The Phytochemical Society of Europe PSE <http://www.phytochemicalsociety.org/naples/>
- October 6-7, 2008 - Gainesville, Florida, USA - Partnering Research with Practice for Conservation and Development - WFT (Working Forests in the Tropics) Student Organizing Committee of the University of Florida - <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/tropics/>
- Octobre 9-10, 2008 – Mane, France - Musée départemental ethnologique, Centre de documentation, Prieuré de Salagon - Septième séminaire annuel d'ethnobotanique du domaine européen du Musée de Salagon. - L'imaginaire contemporain du végétal - <http://musee-de-salagon.com>
- October 15–16, 2008 - Petra, Jordan - Petra Marriott Hotel - 1st International Symposium on Medicinal Plants, Their Cultivation and Aspects of Uses - Organized by Ash-Shoubak University College and Al-Balqa' Applied University, Ashoubak - <http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/2008/1stInternationalSymposiumonMedicinalPlants.pdf>
- October 28–31, 2008 - Sari, Iran- Maazandaraan University of Medical Sciences -International Congress on Traditional and Complementary Medicine (ICTCM) - [www.ictcm.ir](http://www.ictcm.ir)
- November 9-14, 2008 - Cape Town, South Africa - 4th World Congress on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (WOCMAP IV): Using Plants to Benefit People - <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=4943&ArticleID=15>
- November 16-20, 2008 - Punjab, India - International Conference on New Developments in Drug Discovery from Natural Products and Traditional Medicine - National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) - <http://www.ga-online.org/files/Punjab/Brochure.pdf>



## ***Upcoming Conferences II***

- December 5-7, 2008 – Remscheid, Germany - Akademie Remscheid - 21ste Fachtagung Ethnomedizin der AGEM: Kultur, Medizin und Psychologie im Dialog; Bilanzen im interdisziplinären Arbeitsfeld Ethnologie & Medizin - <http://www.agem-ethnomedizin.de/>
- January 7-9, 2009 - Chillán, Chile - Universidad de Concepción - Primer Congreso Internacional de Farmacobotánica e Tercera Reunión Annual Dal Boletín Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Plantas Medicinales y Aromáticas (BLACPMA) - <http://www.blacpma.cl/>
- February 27-28, 2009 - Bangalore, India - National Science Seminar Complex, JN Tata auditorium, Indian Institute of Science - organized by Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI), Bangalore - <http://www.herbalconference2009.com>
- March 6th, 2009 - Traditional Herbal Medical Products, joint symposium, Society for Medicinal plant and Natural Product Research (GA), Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (UK), British Herbal Medicines Association (BHMA), ISE - [www.rpsgb.org.uk/](http://www.rpsgb.org.uk/)
- May 31-June 4, 2009 - Charleston, South Carolina, USA - College of Charleston - SEB 2009 - 50th Annual Meeting - <http://www.econbot.org/>
- September 14 - 18, 2009 - Havana, Cuba - XVIII Congreso Internacional Italo-Latinoamericano de Etnomedicina “Juan Tomás Roig” y al VIII Taller Internacional “Química de los Productos Naturales SCQ - Sociedad Italo-Latino Americana de Etnomedicina (SILAE) e La Sociedad Cubana de Química (SCQ) - <http://www.etnomedicina2009.com/>
- September 21 - 24, 2009 - San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina - V International Congress of Ethnobotany ICEB 2009: Traditions and Transformations in Ethnobotany [aladio@crub.uncoma.edu.ar](mailto:aladio@crub.uncoma.edu.ar)



## ***Impressum***

ISE Newsletter, Bulletin of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology,  
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As part of the Newsletter's general policy we want to share the personal views of the authors with our readers. Unless otherwise stated the opinions expressed in this newsletter are the ones of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the ISE, its board or the editors of the newsletter.



## Latest News from Elsevier

### *Increasing Impact Factor for the Journal of Ethnopharmacology*

- In 2007 about **2000 articles** were **submitted** via EES. We have **published 18 issues** with a total of **3,625 pages**.
- **Most accepted papers** were submitted **from China**, which also exhibited the largest increase of papers.
- The current **rejection rate** of **80%** is only slightly lower than last year (82%).
- The **impact factor** has risen to a staggering **2.049** (as published by Thomson Reuters).
- Articles published since 2006 have been cited up to 25 times, with the three **most cited articles** being the following:
  - *Cannabinoids in medicine: A review of their therapeutic potential*. Ben Amar M.; 2006 Apr 21;105(1-2):1-25.
  - *Plectranthus: a review of ethnobotanical uses*. Lukhoba CW et al.; 2006 Jan 3;103(1):1-24.
  - *Effects of berberine on diabetes induced by alloxan and a high-fat/high-cholesterol diet in rats*. Tang LQ et al.; 2006 Nov 3;108(1):109-15.
- The number of full text downloads from ScienceDirect went up to roughly 900,000 in 2007, with articles being downloaded for up to over 900 times. The three **most downloaded articles** were the following:
  - *Punica granatum (pomegranate) and its potential for prevention and treatment of inflammation and cancer*. Lansky EP et al.; 2007 Jan 19;109(2):177-206.
  - *Animal models to test drugs with potential antidiabetic activity*. Fröde TS et al.; 2008 Jan 17;115(2):173-83.
  - *Antitumor, antioxidant and antimicrobial activities of Bersama engleriana (Melianthaceae)*. Kuete V et al.; 2008 Feb 12;115(3):494-501.
- In total 1318 **ScienceDirect** users receive an **alert** when a new volume/issue of JEP is being published. You can set up your own alert on ScienceDirect under the following link:  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=MiamiSIDIURL&\\_method=listAlerts&\\_btn=Y&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=4845034&md5=fa8977ce50ddcc485f69a0ad51625fa4](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MiamiSIDIURL&_method=listAlerts&_btn=Y&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=4845034&md5=fa8977ce50ddcc485f69a0ad51625fa4)

*Irene Kanter-Schlifke, PhD*  
*Publishing Editor, Pharmacology & Pharmaceutical Sciences*  
*Journal Development and Support, ELSEVIER*  
[www.elsevier.com](http://www.elsevier.com)



## Websites of interest

[www.leffingwell.com/plants.htm](http://www.leffingwell.com/plants.htm)

Phytochemical & Ethnobotanical Search Page

<http://tcm.cz3.nus.edu.sg/group/tcm-id/tcmid.asp>

The Traditional Chinese Medicine Information Database:

<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/international/plantlife-med-plants.htm>

The Medicinal Plant Conservation Initiative

<http://www.isiao.it/home.php>

IsIAO (Istituto Italiano per L'Africa e l'Oriente) institute based in Rome developing cultural, linguistic, ethnographic, anthropological, archaeological and archaeobotanical research in different areas of Asia and Africa

<http://www.rolexawards.com>

<http://www.lindberghfoundation.org/>

Lindbergh Fund: Funds all nationalities, also projects related to ethnobotany, conservation etc..

<http://www.blacpma.cl/>

Boletin Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Plantas Medicinales y Aromaticas (BLACPMA) developing rapidly into an international journal on medicinal and aromatic plant research and on the exchange of information about these topics

[www.therai.org.uk/index/aio.html](http://www.therai.org.uk/index/aio.html)

One of the few online bibliographies covering a large body of material of interest to a medical anthropologist, deals with the current approaches to medical and health issues such as: culture-bound syndromes, traditional healing, epidemiology, sexual cultures, population biology and genetics and modern and palaeopathologies. Freely available for trial use (and for users in developing world) but regular use by institutions requires an annual subscription.



## Short survey on traditional remedies in the treatment of diabetes mellitus

Dear ISE Newsletter reader

Prof. Michael Heinrich from the Centre for Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, would like you to take a few minutes to participate in the following survey. He is interested in receiving information on the use of traditional remedies in the treatment of diabetes mellitus. He is looking for answers on the question “How can a strictly bio-medically defined condition (blood sugar level above certain threshold) which is normally not identified using traditional diagnostic procedures be treated traditionally?” The information collected in this survey will be used in the presentation for the ISE conference 2008 in Brazil. If interested, please answer the following questions and send them until 08.09.2008 to: [michael.heinrich@pharmacy.ac.uk](mailto:michael.heinrich@pharmacy.ac.uk)

- 1) What is the first (oldest) record of traditional therapies of diabetes in the region you work in?
  - a) In case of an article or book, please give the full bibliographic details and some info on the species used etc.
  - b) In case of a herbarium specimen, please give details of collector, herbarium etc
- 2) Biomedical diagnosis and treatment
  - a) How widespread is the home treatment of diabetes (in general terms)?
  - b) Do healers prescribe traditional remedies after a doctors' health center diagnosis of diabetes?
- 3) Is there a traditional diagnosis of diabetes (e.g. sweet urine) which does not involve biomedical diagnosis? If yes, please provide details.
- 4) What is the Indigenous name (or the names) of diabetes?
- 5) What are the core symptoms normally ascribed to diabetes mellitus?
- 6) What are, in your view, the top three species used in your region?
- 7) Please name the region these data refer to.

Thank you very much for your help...



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