

BOOK REVIEW

IYENGAR (M. A.): *Bibliography of Investigated Indian Medicinal Plants (1950-1975)*, pp. 144. Prof. M. A. Iyengar, Kasturiba Medical College, Manipal, Karnataka, 1976. \$ 12-

The importance of biology, biochemistry and economics of non-food natural products have been of increasing value in the field of Medicine. In this context the research on medicinal plants or more fundamentally the phytochemistry has been of much importance. The literature on the organization of the data in this category of plants which play an important role as source of drugs are not many. One of the basic index in this area has been the *Lynn Index* which covers world literature between 1560-1954. The *Bibliography of investigated Indian Medicinal Plants (1950-1975)* by M. A. Iyengar with special reference to Indian Scene in this context is timely, and a welcome addition to researchers in this area. It is an exhaustive attempt on a large body of phytochemical data of Indian medicinal plants, provides basic and practical information scattered in a large number of journals of the related disciplines. It infact updates and supplements the earlier works—like *Indigenous drugs of India* by Chopra, 1933, and *Glossary of Medicinal plants* by Chopra and Nayar 1956.

The *Bibliography* answers with relevance and accuracy the most needed questions on phytochemistry, Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology. It covers about 2,500 Indian Medicinal Plants on which work has been done for the past 25 years and cites about 4,000 references.

General arrangement of entry is alphabetical on the generic name of each plant. The title, authors name, and address are the next items. Journal references in chronological order forms the last item in each entry. References to the thesis work is also indicated. The appendices on the General and collective references, Abbreviations used and their expansion, and Index of Sanskrit and popular Vernacular names and their latin equivalent are very helpful clues to quick identification.

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