



Ethnobotany: Evolution of a Discipline

By Richard Evans Schultes, Siri von Reis



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Published on the 100th anniversary of the science of ethnobotany, this volume provides a comprehensive summary of the history and current state of the field. The 36 articles present a truly global perspective on the theory and practice of today's ethnobotany.



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The value of biodiversity and the need to preserve the untapped botanical resources of places like the Amazon rain forests is now widely acknowledged. Less widely understood but equally threatened is a key means of access to these resources, the knowledge and use of these plants by local nonliterate peoples whose traditional cultures are fast disappearing. This book explains and promotes ethnobotany, which investigates this knowledge by providing an overview of its history, practice, and value worldwide. Chapters are contributed by an impressive international array of field ethnobotanists, conservationists, and academics. Schultes spent many years as a field ethnobotanist, professor, and director of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, where von Reis is an associate. This is an important, in-depth academic study of a discipline for those with a serious interest in ethnobotany. Libraries seeking more popular works might consider two books Schultes wrote with Robert F. Raffauf: the photographic essay *Vine of the Soul: Medicine Men, Their Plants and Rituals in the Colombian Amazonia* (Synergetic Pr., 1992) and *The Healing Forest: Medicinal and Toxic Plants of the Northwest Amazonia* (Dioscorides Pr., 1990).?Marit MacArthur, Auraria Lib., Denver
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Review

“An important, in-depth academic study of a discipline for those with a serious interest in ethnobotany.” —*Library Journal*

“An important reference for anyone interested in a whole range of fields related to plants and people from anthropology to sociology; highly recommended for all libraries.” —*Choice*

“Readers interested in the topics will find these essays to be succinct and current overviews of each area. . . and it should be recommended to all libraries covering ethnobotany.” —*International Journal of Pharmacology*

“There is little doubt that this reference will become a classic for teaching ethnobotany, in field work, and in laboratory research for generations to come.” —*Quarterly Review of Biology*

“Overall, the editors did a splendid job in presenting the breadth and depth of this exciting field.” —*Plant Science Bulletin*

“I feel that this book is an essential addition to the collection of anyone interested in ethnobotany.” —*Economic Botany*

“Ethnobotany gives a very stimulating and useful overview of the first 100 years of this field. The book will hopefully be the basis for further theoretical and methodological developments.” —*Anthropos*

“This volume will be a fixture in Botanical History, with thirty-six excellent articles that cover a grand variety of topics of these sciences. . . . An indispensable addition for every botanist and pharmacologist.” —*Tropical Biology Review*

“A timely volume that presents a broad overview of ethnobotany, showing how this rapidly developing field of inquiry has evolved to its present day high degree of sophistication.” —*Northeastern Naturalist*

“This textual benchmark in the field of ethnobotany will undoubtedly find lasting value as recommended reading for students of ethnobotany and related subjects.” —*Discovery*

“This collection calls to anyone interested in the cultural origins of medicine, as well as the conservation of the environments from which this knowledge emanates. . . . I urge everyone interested in natural medicine to read this book. It is a literary treasure.” —*Library Letter*

About the Author

The late Richard Evans Schultes, Jeffrey Professor of Biology and Director of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University (Emeritus), was a plant explorer, ethnobotanist, and conservationist. He was known as the world's authority on medicinal, narcotic, and hallucinogenic plants in the New World.

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