

## Book Review

### Genetic Resources, Chromosome Engineering and Crop Improvement Series: Medicinal Plants, Volume 6

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The 'Medicinal Plants' Volume 6 contains 30 chapters of leading experts and panelists. The volume is an exhaustive compendium based on the hard work of the experts and editor.

It is an encyclopedia consolidating landmark research leads and description of medicinal plants of different countries as Nature's pharmacy. It presents comprehensive global update on medicinal plants, genetic resources and their increasing importance in pharmaceutical and cosmeceutical industries, medicine and nutrition around the world. Closer examination reveals a wealth of information on individual medicinal plants including their history, origin, genetic resources, cytogenetics, and varietal improvement through conventional and modern methods, and their use in pharmaceutical, cosmeceutical, nutrition and food industries. Simultaneously, it provides useful information on germplasm resources of medicinal plants, their history, taxonomy and biogeography, ecology and biodiversity.

The topic of Medicine is of no small interest, since the active ingredients from the medicinal plants

described may indeed be used as lead structures in modern medicinal chemistry. The molecular studies on many of such plants used in Ayurveda and traditional Chinese medicines have been researched in recent years, and have already led to interesting lead structures. Those who are interested in particular plants will find a comprehensive compilation in this handbook, and can bank upon useful literatures and references in the book.

The volume is a source of invaluable information which can be useful to the students, teachers and academicians involved in human resource development and research and development. It is especially recommended for the libraries of research institutions and research groups working on natural products, medicinal chemistry, or traditional healing methods. It may also prove useful handy material to scientific bodies, regulatory authorities, policy makers and herbal industry, including *inter alia* other institutions involved in the development, assessment and registration of such plants.

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