

General Editor: **Roy Ellen**, FBA, Professor of Anthropology and Human Ecology, University of Kent at Canterbury

Interest in environmental anthropology and ethnobiological knowledge has grown steadily in recent years, reflecting national and international concern about the environment and developing research priorities. 'Environmental Anthropology and Ethnobiology' is an international series based at the University of Kent at Canterbury. It is a vehicle for publishing up-to-date monographs and edited works on particular issues, themes, places or peoples which focus on the interrelationship between society, culture and the environment.

ETHNOBOTANY IN THE NEW EUROPE

People, Health and Wild Plant Resources

Manuel Pardo-de-Santayana, Andrea Pieroni and Rajindra K. Puri (Eds)

The text itself is useful, entertaining and informative. In addition, each chapter is a model for modern ethnobotanical studies. Rather than simply cataloguing plant use, each researcher analyzes the historical, societal, economic or political aspects relevant to changes in human plant usage. Thus, the authors provide a true ethnobotanical resource that can be instructive to academic audiences. Choice

The merit of the book is that it offers a glimpse in the cultural diversity of Europe as a reflection of its history and shows some of the trends in both local ecological knowledge and ethnobotanical research in the old continent. I recommend this book to any scholar interested in doing ethnobotanical research in Europe and to any student that wants to carry out ethnobotanical research in Europe. Economic Botany

The study of European wild food plants and herbal medicines is an old discipline that has been invigorated by a new generation of researchers pursuing ethnobotanical studies in new contexts. Modern botanical and medical science itself was built on studies of Medieval Europeans' use of food plants and medicinal herbs. In spite of monumental changes introduced in the Age of Discovery and Mercantile Capitalism, some communities, often immigrants in foreign lands, continue to hold onto old recipes and traditions, while others have adopted and enculturated exotic plants and remedies into their diets and pharmacopeias in new and creative ways. Now in the 21st century, in the age of the European Union and globalization, European folk botany is once again dynamically responding to changing cultural, economic and political contexts. The authors and studies presented in this volume reflect work being conducted across Europe's many regions. They tell the story of the ongoing evolution of human-plant relations in one of the most bioculturally dynamic places on the planet, and explore new approaches that link the re-evaluation of plant-based cultural heritage with the conservation and use of biocultural diversity.

Manuel Pardo-de-Santayana is Senior Lecturer of botany and ethnobotany at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He has been researching contemporary and historical uses of Spanish medicinal and wild food plants, homegardens and folk botanical taxonomies at the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid (CSIC) and the School of Pharmacy (University of London) since 1995.

Andrea Pieroni is Associate Professor of food botany, ethnobotany and ethnobiology at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Northern Italy. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*. His research focuses on food and medical ethnobotany in the Mediterranean and in the Balkan areas, and among migrant communities and diasporas in Europe.

Rajindra K. Puri is Senior Lecturer and Director of the Centre for Biocultural Diversity, in the School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent, UK. He convenes the MSc Ethnobotany Programme at Kent, in conjunction with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He leads a consortium of EU universities that focus on Biocultural Diversity Studies and has students conducting ethnobotanical research on problems in conservation, development and climate change adaptation.

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