

REVIEWS

B.P.M. HYLAND, T. WHIFFIN, D.C. CHRISTOPHEL, B. GRAY & R.W. ELICK: **Australian Tropical Rain Forest Plants. Trees, Shrubs and Vines.** CSIRO Publishing, Canberra, Australia, 2003. CD-ROM and Manual, colour illus. ISBN 0-643-06872-4. Price: AUD 120.

The CD-ROM Australian Rain Forest Plants offers an interactive identification and information system on 2154 species of trees, shrubs and vines. The key for identification is user friendly and works quickly down to an identification or, in some cases, a few species with similar traits. The additional information includes descriptions, maps and illustrations of leaves, flowers and seedlings. The illustrations includes a well chosen selection of colour photographs. For character definition an extensive, illustrated glossary is available. The user guide offers enough information for using this CD-ROM. Installation proved to be easy.

FRITS ADEMA

AMEENAH GURIB-FAKIM & THOMAS BRENDLER: **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Indian Ocean Islands. Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles and Mascarenes.** Medpharm Scientific Publishers, Stuttgart, 2004. viii + 567 pp., (colour) illus. ISBN 3-88763-094-7. Price: EUR 198.

This book about the medicinal and aromatic plants of islands in the Indian Ocean combines the local knowledge of biodiversity and its uses with western approaches to preservation of knowledge and environment. About 350 species are treated in this volume. Each species account gives the following information: Botanical description; distribution and ecology; chemistry and pharmacology of active compounds; and uses in traditional medicine. Colour photographs of all species are presented and for many species line drawings are included in the text.

The species treatments form the main part of the book. This part is preceded by an introduction describing the various island groups both geographically and as environment for plant life. A list of references and several indices conclude the volume.

Medicinal and aromatic plants of Indian Ocean Islands contains a wealth of information on plants, their chemical compounds and their uses in medicines or aromas. I recommend this beautifully edited book to everybody interested in plants and their uses.

FRITS ADEMA