

REVIEW

R. HEGNAUER & M. HEGNAUER: **Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen, XIb-2. Leguminosae, Teil 3: Papilionoideae**. Birkhäuser Verlag, 2001. xv + 1494 pp. ISBN 3-7643-6269-3. Price: DEM 1296 (approx. EUR 610).

Over 40 years ago Robert Hegnauer started a comprehensive review of the comparative phytochemistry of fungi and plants. With the publication of the volume on the Papilionoideae (Fabaceae) the series is now complete.

Over the years the authors shifted their emphasis: In the earlier volumes family treatments give a highly summarised account of the most important chemical compounds and their taxonomic significance. While in the Leguminosae volumes detailed attention is given to ethnobotany and associated phytochemical traits that may explain the uses, much less attention is paid to the possible systematic and phylogenetic significance. However, these volumes contain a wealth of information that is otherwise scattered throughout a large body of literature.

In Leguminosae, Teil 3: Papilionoideae the treatment follows the present tribal arrangement. Each tribe is briefly described including an account of the distribution of the most important compound(s). This introduction is followed by a discussion of the compounds of individual taxa (subtribes, genera, species) and an annotated list of references. The volume is concluded by a taxonomic and a key word index. For a good understanding the other volumes on Leguminosae: XIa. Leguminosae, Teil 1: A. Allgemeine Teil; B. Chemische Charakterzüge der Leguminosae; XIb-1 and Leguminosae, Teil 2: Caesalpinioideae und Mimosoideae are needed.

Although written in the German language, which may be a barrier for many readers, we highly recommend this volume to all with an interest in Leguminosae. The whole series is a must for all Botanical Institutes. We congratulate the authors with the completion of this important series on phytochemistry.

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