

Venue:	Doody's Book Review Service
Title:	Book Review: Bioactives and pharmacology of medicinal plants, T. Pullaiah
Date:	2023
Type:	
Author(s)/ Presenter(s):	Jacob Stoffel
Abstract (or Book Review):	<p>Description: This book covers a variety of different medicinal plants and how their chemical and medicinal agents are being shown in various trials, including animal, to help various conditions. For example, how certain flavonoids found in Plant A could be analgesic or if it has anti-malarial properties, etc. This is done for each plant chapter listed.</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose, according to the author, is to generate interest and create a sourcebook for more medicinal plants to be developed into drugs to help humanity. This goal itself is a noble one and generally worthy, however, I am unsure and not entirely qualified to gauge if the book is needed or not. I think in the aspect of creating a sourcebook, the objective has been met. It is consistent, clear, and, all in all, a good reference source.</p> <p>Audience: The book is written for researchers and pharmaceutical developers mainly, with the potential to be utilized in educational institutions like medical schools and specifically schools training pharmacists or other chemical researchers. The book does meet the needs of its intended audience for the purpose stated. The author is a credible authority with a PhD in botany/botanical science, over three decades of teaching experience, and various positions in the role of Dean of Colleges, President of the Indian Botanical Society, and many other but equally prestigious positions. He also has several other books published in the same field of subject matter as this book.</p> <p>Features: This book is best described as a literary reference for the potential pharmacological utility of various plants and their parts. As a clinical reference, there is not much value at this stage in the studies collected or the layout of the book itself. Many studies listed are from clinical trials for animals for the individual constituents of each plant listed, and, as of yet, they have not reached a drug development stage. However, if the audience is that of a research, educational, or institutional variety, then this book would do</p>

well on the shelf to reference the collected and studied plants. The best part is the quick and succinct breakdowns of potential interventional benefits with the mechanistic or causative agents behind them. There are really only two negatives noted. Firstly, that while the author took time to occasionally chart out and have images for the chemical structures associated with various plant extracts in this book, there are no images tied to the plant itself to reference back to. The location on where to find said plant is noted but no image was shown for the plant itself. In my opinion, this could lead to less engagement and reduce prolonged reading interest in the book itself. The second shortcoming is that while it is understood who the target audience is and why, the book's format potentially excludes some advocates for its intended purpose. If some more time was dedicated to either list to show where some of these plants could be utilized pharmaceutically, or if there was more time to formulate a chart or more clinically oriented version for various other professionals like physicians, naturopaths, nurse practitioners, etc., I feel the intent behind the book could have a greater chance of success.

Assessment: The book itself is a moderate to high quality sourcebook for researchers and drug developers. I am currently unaware of other direct comparisons to this book or its subject matter and purpose. Simply put, the book could be thought of as PubMed SparkNotes. With the research compiled and analyzed for readers, it could and would save potential time in developing or writing up grants or proposals for clinical trials. Or it could be utilized by chemistry enthusiasts in various fields as a "school field guide" when learning about the topi of medicinal plants and their use and eventual development into pharmaceuticals.