

Venue:	Doody's Book Review Service
Title:	Book Review: Wild mushrooms and health: diversity, phytochemistry, medicinal benefits, and cultivation, Kamal Ch. Semwal, et al.
Date:	2024
Type:	Book Review
Author(s)/ Presenter(s):	Tom Braem
Abstract (or Book Review):	<p>Description</p> <p>This book focuses on wild mushrooms and their applicability to health as far as medicinal benefits, phytochemistry, diversity, and cultivation. The authors present a great deal of technical information about the properties of mushrooms from some countries of the world using tables, black and white photographs, and exhaustive lists of references.</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>The editor's purpose is to provide scientific information and evidence on the use of wild mushrooms as medicine, focusing on the chemical properties of mushrooms from several areas of the world. These are worthy objectives, as these fungal sources of possible benefits to health and the treatment of disease could be of great benefit to our world. As the book only addresses specific areas of the world, these objectives are only met relative to those regions. Discussion of additional countries and regions of the world would benefit the book.</p> <p>Audience</p> <p>The book's primary audience is researchers, scientists, students, and citizen scientists. It presents a great deal of scientific information that supports claims of possible health benefits without relying on anecdotal information. The technical nature of the book would likely limit its usefulness to those with a limited scientific background. The needs of the audience are met, for mushrooms from some parts of the world. The credentials listed for the authors indicate that they are credible in this field.</p> <p>Features</p> <p>The book covers medicinal mushrooms found in certain areas of the world, including India, Costa Rica, Philippines, Malaysia, and Ethiopia. Representation of other areas of the world such as North or South America would improve the book's scope. The material is well-organized, scientific, and very well referenced. Color pictures of the mushrooms, as that</p>

may be a key element in their identification from other varieties, would have been a great addition to the text.

Assessment

This is a high quality and well-researched presentation of this topic. The biographies of the book's editors provide some other publications that do cover mushrooms from other areas of the world, such as the Southeastern United States and Australia. The focus of this text on certain areas of the world (India, Himalayas, Ethiopia) was one perceived limitation of the text.