REVIEW

CHRISTIA KLETTER & MONIKA KRIECHER (eds): **Tibetan Medicinal Plants**. Medpharm Scientific Publishers, Stuttgart, 2001. xv + 383 pp., colour illus. ISBN 3-88763-067-x. Price: EUR 138.

Tibetan Medicinal Plants (with a foreword by the Dalai Lama) treats more than 100 plant species in 60 monographs ordered by their Tibetan names. Each monograph gives an introduction on the Tibetan plant classification, the western interpretation of it and the material collected for identification. This introduction is followed by one or more genus descriptions, each followed by one or more species descriptions. The species descriptions include: Distribution; ecology; taxonomy; variability; conservation; and a discussion of the medical drug with the important macroscopic and microscopic characters. The descriptions are followed by brief sections on chemistry, pharmacology, uses as a medicine and 'remarks'. The monographs are concluded by references. The monographs as such give a comprehensive account of the knowledge on a Tibetan medicine. The book is beautifully illustrated by colour photographs of plants and plant parts accompanied for most species by very good micrographs of sections of stems and/or leaves.

The plant monographs cover the main part of the book. They are preceded by chapters on Tibetan Medicine and Habitats of Tibetan Medicinal Plants. A set of glossaries on botanical terms, food terms and Tibetan medical terms, and indices on references, plant species names, Tibetan terminology, and a general index conclude this book.

This very well-edited and beautiful illustrated book offers a comprehensive overview of Tibetan plant medicines with a wealth of information on medical uses, plant species and chemical compounds. A must for everyone interested in plant medicine as well as for those interested in plants used as medicine.

FRITS ADEMA