

Rogan Roth
*School of Biological and Conservation Sciences,
 University of KwaZulu-Natal Pietermaritzburg,
 Private Bag X01, Scottsville 3201, South Africa*
 E-mail address: roth@ukzn.ac.za.

doi:10.1016/j.sajb.2010.09.003

K. Roberts (Ed.), Handbook of Plant Science (2 Volume Set), Wiley, Chichester, England (2007). Price: €345.00, Hard Cover, 1648 pages, Website: www.wiley.com, ISBN: 978-0-470-05723-0

The *Handbook of Plant Science*, according to the Preface, was compiled to produce “a comprehensive and authoritative resource for teachers, students and researchers” and to “provide the key background information for their particular area of interest”. It comprises 255 articles extracted from the *Encyclopedia of Life Sciences* (ELS), an Internet-based “Encyclopedia” published by Wiley (www.els.net). Currently, the ELS has over 4300 articles covering all aspects of life sciences including Biochemistry, Cell biology, Developmental Biology, Ecology, Evolution and Diversity of Life, Genetics and Disease, Genetics and Molecular Biology, Immunology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Plant Science, Science and Society, Structural Biology, and Virology.

The articles in the *Handbook of Plant Science*, written by about 350 contributing scientists, are arranged across two volumes as follows (number of articles in parentheses): Volume 1: Introduction (2), Functional Plant Anatomy (24), Plant Tissues and Cells (20), Plant Cell Biology (20), Plant Growth and Development (35), Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology (37); Volume 2: Evolution (7), Plant Primary Metabolism (20), Plant Secondary Metabolism (26), Photosynthesis (23), Plants and their Environment (25), Plants and Other Organisms (16). The articles contain numerous black-and-white photographs and figures, and in addition there are 48 full-colour pages found at the centres of each of the two volumes (colour renditions of 87 of the black-and-white figures from the articles). At the end of the second volume there is an extensive Subject Index of 57 pages (4 columns) containing over 1700 entries. Although it may not be as rapid or extensive as an electronic search, it does assist the reader to source relevant information in the two volumes.

In general, the articles vary from 2 to 10 pages, with some articles being more of an introductory nature, and others being more advanced and in-depth. Thus, some of the articles are more of a “text-book” style, with no specific reference citations and only a list for “further reading”, whereas others are more detailed review articles with both a specific references section and suggestions for further reading. Thus, there is some overlap between individual chapters, but these have been cross-referenced to allow the reader to expand their understanding on certain topics.

A fairly noticeable criticism of the *Handbook of Plant Science* is the absence of an article on gibberellins, especially considering the fact that the other classical plant hormones are each represented in individual articles. This provides the reader with some doubt regarding the comprehensiveness of sections with which one may be less familiar. It may well be that some errors have crept into a publication of this enormity, but more serious scholars and researchers will be able to discern cases where this may have occurred and search for information to supplement that which is readily provided in this text. On a positive note, however, the *Handbook of Plant Science* does cover an extensive range of plant science topics in varying degrees of detail, and as such, it does have its benefits. Indeed, although other reviewers have criticised this publication for its cost and relative redundancy (some articles may already be outdated due to rapid scientific advances), it may nonetheless be a very useful “desktop” reference to lecturers and students in any field of plant science, particularly for those who do not have access to the online ELS. For many of the more specific topics in modern plant sciences, this “hefty text” does provide a vast amount of information, and may be a very useful starting point for more in-depth discovery of many topics.

Marnie E. Light
*Research Centre for Plant Growth and Development,
 School of Biological and Conservation Sciences,
 University of KwaZulu-Natal Pietermaritzburg, Private Bag
 X01, Scottsville 3209, South Africa*
 E-mail address: lightm@ukzn.ac.za.

doi:10.1016/j.sajb.2010.09.001

Herbal Drugs: Ethnomedicine to Modern Medicine, K.G. Ramawat (Ed.), 2009, Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany, Price: €199.95, Hard Cover, 402 pages, ISBN: 978-3-540-79115-7, Website: www.springer.com

The “modern” use of herbal drugs is certainly not on the decline, and there is increasing attention being paid to the development and “modernisation” of the use of plants and herbal drugs in medicine—something which has been around for a very long time. This book highlights some plants used in ethnomedicine that have been scientifically validated, and provides reviews of information on herbal drugs used for antioxidant, anticancer, memory enhancing, neuroprotective, immunomodulatory, and anti-inflammatory effects. In addition, herbal drugs used for stroke, cardiovascular disorders, and erectile dysfunction are also discussed, as well as issues related to toxicity and safety.

The book comprises 21 Chapters written by a variety of international contributors, several of whom are experts in their respective fields of ethnopharmacology. The first two Chapters provide an introduction to the book, and highlight the potential of herbal drugs as sources of novel bioactive molecules, including a short overview of ancient medicinal systems and some of the main classes of bioactive molecules (alkaloids, phenolics and

terpenes). The remaining Chapters cover a variety of interesting topics on ethnomedicine and herbal drugs, as mentioned previously. These include, among others, herbal drugs such as Ginseng, *Harpagophytum*, *Ginkgo*, and *Tinospora*. There are also Chapters on artemisinin, curcumin and the biological activities of epigallocatechin gallate and kinetin. Whereas some Chapters focus on more specific herbal drugs, others have certain target diseases/ailments as the focus. This allows for the book to provide a lot of concise information on a variety of topics.

With global interest in this field of research on the increase, books such as this one provide important reviews and references to various topics. Although it does save some printing space, I am personally not in favour of the bibliographic format used in this book (use of a numbered system, with no article titles given). References to other source articles can sometimes be the most important aspect of “review” Chapters in these types of reference works, and it is unfortunate that the full article titles are not given as this is often very useful information to a researcher. The book, however, is certainly a valuable addition to the field, and would be of interest to researchers and students in various fields of botany and ethnobotany, pharmacology, and herbal medicine.

Marnie E. Light
*Research Centre for Plant Growth and Development,
 School of Biological and Conservation Sciences,
 University of KwaZulu-Natal Pietermaritzburg,
 Private Bag X01, Scottsville 3209, South Africa
 E-mail address: lightm@ukzn.ac.za*

doi:10.1016/j.sajb.2010.09.002

EndNote 1-2-3 Easy! Reference Management for the Professional, Second Edition, A. Agrawal, 2009, Springer, New York, USA, Price: €44.95, Soft Cover, 294 pages, ISBN: 978-0-387-95900-9, Website: www.springer.com

One of the tasks of any scientist is to manage literature and compile references in a meaningful and useful manner. This becomes an increasingly difficult task, as one collects more and more publications for the duration of a project, and throughout one's career. Information management is a major component in the research process and preparation of scientific manuscripts, although it is something that is seldom ‘taught’ in any course. With the increasing use of personal computers for information management, various reference software options have become available. EndNote® is one such available program, and is a popular and widely-used reference management software program. Endnote can be used as a database for simply cataloguing papers, but it also has the functionality to be a very powerful tool for referencing. Its use, however, is greatly enhanced with greater user skill and improved understanding of its capabilities. With this idea in mind, Agrawal has produced a really useful guide to fully using EndNote.

One of the unfortunate things about any book dealing with computer software is that new software versions are regularly released, as is the case with EndNote. Although the book is based

on Version X1 of EndNote, Version X4 has been recently released by Thomson Reuters. This, however, does not negate the usefulness of this book, since the main features of the software have not changed dramatically, and additional support and information on any upgrades can be found on the EndNote website (www.endnote.com). It is therefore, still a very useful book for those unfamiliar with the software, and the changes between Version X1 and recent releases should easily be managed. The book provides step-by-step instructions on using EndNote to create a digital library of scientific references and to create an accurately formatted reference list (bibliography) in a manuscript. It is both beneficial to novices and would aid experienced users in making use of the more advanced features of the software. Although it does take a little time to work through the book, the effort is worth it, as it enables one to really get the most out of EndNote and benefit from the powerful reference tool that it is.

When EndNote was released a few years ago, I was a bit of a sceptic, and didn't really understand the advantages of using such software, or how it could be an aid to manuscript preparation. I have, however, successively become more familiar with EndNote, and now find it to be a very useful research tool. If you've never used EndNote referencing software before, and are perhaps interested but nervous to do so, this is a book worth getting and spending some time on.

This Second Edition of *EndNote 1-2-3 Easy!* comes with a CD that contains a sample EndNote library, very useful ‘cheat sheets’ for quick reference, and copies of all the figures and tables in the book. There are also links to several online resources providing help on scientific writing and on downloading files, filters and styles for EndNote. It also contains a sheet with keyboard shortcuts (something that I personally found to be very useful). I would certainly recommend this book as a really useful addition for any University Library and Research Institution that makes use of EndNote.

Marnie E. Light
*Research Centre for Plant Growth and Development,
 School of Biological and Conservation Sciences,
 University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01,
 Scottsville 3209, South Africa
 E-mail address: lightm@ukzn.ac.za*

doi:10.1016/j.sajb.2010.09.007

The Machinery of Life, Second Edition, David S. Goodsell, 2009, Copernicus Books, Springer Science + Business Media, New York, USA, Price: €25.00, Hard Cover, 167 pages, ISBN: 978-0-387-84924-9, Website: www.springer.com

The Second Edition of *The Machinery of Life* is a colourful improvement on the First Edition which was published in 1993. It covers much of the same content, but all the illustrations are now in colour and important scientific advances made in the last 15 years have been incorporated. In addition, a new chapter on “life, ageing and death” has also been included.

We believe that this volume will be an important contribution to the literature on AAls in promoting a clearer understanding of the scope of this practice. The contributors to the book continue to take a critical analysis of what are best practices in AAI and provide the readers with a glimpse to what is needed in the future to develop more evidence-based practices. I want to thank David Sax for the photograph that is displayed on the dedication page of myself and my two current therapy dogs (Magic and Ketzy). Over the course of the past year, several people read drafts of the various chapters and provided input and editorial comments. I am sincerely indebted to all of these individuals for their suggestions.

Wiley-Blackwell Handbooks of Developmental Psychology This outstanding series of handbooks provides a cutting-edge overview of classic research, current research, and future trends in developmental psychology. Each handbook draws together 25–30 newly commissioned chapters to provide a comprehensive overview of a subdiscipline of developmental psychology. So the solution we arrived at was to move to a two-volume format, with volume 1 covering basic research and volume 2 covering applied and policy issues. We made this decision with some misgivings. After all, it could be argued that by making this split we are reinforcing the relative isolation of applied and basic work.

Handbook of Photovoltaic Science and Engineering_Front. Handbook of Photovoltaic Science and Engineering_P1. Handbook of Photovoltaic Science and Engineering_P3. Handbook of Photovoltaic Science and Engineering_P6. Handbook of Photovoltaic Science and Engineering_P7. Handbook of Photovoltaic Science and Engineering. John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8SQ, England. Telephone (+44) 1243 779777. Email (for orders and customer service enquiries): cs-books@wiley.co.uk Visit our Home Page on www.wileyeurope.com or www.wiley.com. All Rights Reserved. This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. The Handbook of Plant Science is an authoritative source of up-to-date, practical information for all teachers, students and researchers working in the field of plant science, botany, plant biotechnology, agriculture and horticulture. Buy Both and Save 25%! This item: Handbook of Plant Science, 2 Volume Set. Practical Statistics and Experimental Design for Plant and Crop Science (Hardcover £262.20). Cannot be combined with any other offers. Original Price: £806.30. Plant cell growth and elongation (Maureen C McCann, Keith Roberts and Nicholas C Carpita). Plant programmed cell death (Eric Lam). Plant cell differentiation (Martin Håkansson). VOLUME 2. Plant cell culture (Roberta H Smith). Plant breeding and crop improvement (Peter DS Caligari).