



## JOURNAL OF NATURAL REMEDIES

### Book Review

#### **The Identification of Medicinal Plants**

*A Handbook of the morphology of botanicals in commerce.*

**Dr. Wendy Applequist,**

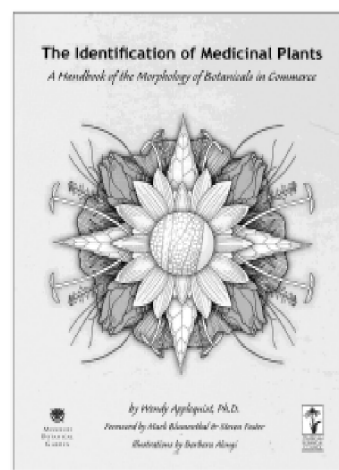
Missouri Botanical Garden Press,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

As a whole, this is a useful book for the herbal industry, plant collectors and botanists and researchers. The book under review focuses upon 150 medicinal plants recorded in herbal trade in western countries. The book consists of background and list of botanical entities, excluding introduction and appendixes.

The introduction gives an overview of contents provided in the book. The author introduces the reader in Part I to the basics of plant morphology, difficulty and brief on identification of plants. The nomenclature of each plant is explained briefly with emphasis on binomial nomenclature. The author explains the basic format of presentation of species in Part II.

The Part II covers the species in alphabetical order. The individual species are dealt separately starting with botanical names and authority. The most accepted common name is provided along with the other known common names. The family to which the plant belongs is given along with the old name of the family in bracket. Taxonomy provides a comprehensive information of the genus and species along with synonyms. The description is the most crucial and vital part and this has been well taken care. The part traded is also given.

The salient features of identification of the traded part is stupendously described covering exo-morphological characters (including odor, taste and appearance) and anatomical characters in brief in the form of bullets. Tables to help in differentiating the species sold as adulterants and substitutes as well as to differentiate the sup-species further strengthen this part. References at the end of individual species give reader an easy reference. The line diagrams of plant part in trade are very skillfully drawn highlighting key features for few species only. The appendixes furnish list of general references, glossary of morphology and anatomical terminologies. The line diagram of plant part illustrates various shape, bases, apices and margins of leaves and different types of inflorescence. Finally index of plant name is given towards the end of book.



The book being a field guide for identification, the illustration is provided only for 87 species out of 150 species. Nevertheless the book is an elegant work in terms of identifying plant part in trade as well as differentiating characters of adulterants and substitutes. The book is well written and informative.

Reviewed by

**Ms. Noorunnisa Begum,**  
Research Officer &

**Dr. K. Ravikumar,**  
Senior Botanist,  
Bio-Cultural Herbarium, FRLHT, Bangalore.