Society For Economic Botany Newsletter

PLANTS & PEOPLE

Volume 6 Spring 1993

Look for these highlights inside:

The 1993 Conference will be in Miami, Florida, June 23-27

Orphan seed collections have a new home p. 2

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New Dr. Richard E. Schultes Award to be presented at the SEB Miami Conference p. 4

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CONFERENCE

The Conference will be held from June 23 through June 27, 1993. We will be hosted by the Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami, Florida. Brad Bennett is coordinating a symposium, “Invading Species, Their Threat and Their Potential,” including such speakers as Brad Bennett from Florida International University speaking on “Weeds as Foods”; Don Sneddon of the Department of Natural Resources, “Economics of Exotic Removal in Florida”; Dan Austin, Florida Atlantic University, “Exotic Plants and the Flora of Florida”; and other suggested topics from a host of speakers such as “Weeds as Medicines” and “Congressional Reports on Introduced Organisms.”

Besides the scientific program we will have several excellent field trips beginning on June 23, 1993. To date they are: tropical fruit cultivars, mango tasting, a trip to Little Havana, a trip to view cultivated economic plants at the Fairchild, a visit to the Herb and Spice Garden State Park, a trip to the Everglades, and a tour emphasizing the effect of invasive species in Florida.

We will be dined and wined at the Fairchild with tropical fruits and exotic foods on Wednesday evening June 23, have a barbecue Thursday evening followed by an Ethics Committee discussion. Friday evening, after the symposium on invasive species, we will have the annual banquet, the Richard E. Schultes award, and the Distinguished Economic Botanist presentation. Saturday, there will be invited papers on “New Directions in Ethnobotany,” contributed papers, and a field trip to the Subtropical Hammocks.

Plan ahead. Deb Pearsall will be sending you all the details soon.

SEE YOU THERE!!

INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Ghilean Prance of Kew Gardens. As the founding father of our United Kingdom chapter, he offered some updates about the chapter’s activities. They meet 2-3 times a year discussing and presenting a variety of programs. He feels they are successful in their initial attempts to form a chapter and will continue to expand. He suggested that we meet in the UK in a few years. What a thought!! I am hoping they will send us more about their programs to include in future Newsletters. In the publications section, I have included a review of “Conserving the Wild Relatives of Crops” by Erich Hoyt, one of the UK members.
**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Well, I have settled into my new location and want to thank those of you that have sent me notes about Shaman Pharmaceuticals, information about your work, and kind notes of appreciation about the newsletter. Depending on the topic, responses to these are found throughout the newsletter and in the Letters to the Editor.

I was also pleased with the additional responses to the list of classes in Economic Botany and related fields. The majority of correspondences I receive is from people asking about available classes. I feel that if we are committed to expanding our field, we must be able to guide folks to places where they can learn more about Ethnobotany and Economic Botany. I will be updating the list and redistributing it with the Fall issue of “Plants and People.” If your name is not included and should be, or if you are familiar with other programs or classes which are not listed, please forward that information to me. The deadline is August.

We now have a location for depositing viable orphan seed collections. The California State Seed Laboratory in Sacramento is willing to accept seed collections. Their address is 1220 N Street, Room 340, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please send seeds to Paul Peterson’s attention. Donald Lawrence was the first person to donate seeds to the society and these have been forwarded to California State Seed Lab. Thank You.

The Conference is alive and well in Miami. The hurricane stalled some of our plans and have changed others, but we are set for Miami at the Fairchild Tropical Gardens on June 23-27, 1993. Exciting plans are being made and it will give all of us a first-hand experience on seeing hurricane damage and regeneration at the gardens. The symposium is entitled: “Invading Species, Their Threat and Their Potential,” and we are planning satellite programs to be coordinated with the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, who are meeting in Orlando following our conference. It will be difficult to provide a more tropical setting than last year's meeting in Hawaii but we are trying. For more details see the section on the conference.

The conference will be the first opportunity for the Richard E. Schultes award given by the Healing Forest Conservancy (see announcements). It is a new award given to individuals who are working to support ethnobotany and, in general, biocultural diversity. The call for papers and other details about the conference are on the way and should be received soon. If you have questions please call Deb Pearsall at 314-882-3038.

Finally, now that I am settled and you know my new address, it is changing. My permanent address is: Shaman Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 213 E. Grand Ave., South San Francisco, CA 94080-4812.

**Remember, send** me newsworthy articles about economic botany and related fields, a brief summary of your work, your successes and your failures. I now prefer 3.5 disks for Macintosh in Microsoft word. If not, I can convert most programs. **Just send information!**

Trish
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Richard E. Schultes has written to express his desire to have an index for the Journal of the Society for Economic Botany. This request will be shared at the Board Meeting in June. He also said that he had not received all the issues of our Newsletter, "Plants and People." I have heard this complaint from others. I encourage anyone with this problem to contact Allen Press and straighten out the problem. I realize that if you are reading this you probably don’t have the problem, but you may make sure other members are receiving their copies.

Shilin Hu, from the Institute of Chinese Materia Medica at the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing is interested in snake and scorpion venom. I have listed the details in the Desperately Seeking Column. I include his note here so that those traveling to China may contact him as a fellow Ethnobotanist.

Charlie Heiser has written to request Nicotiana (see Desperately Seeking). I have contacted Gail Wagner about the request. She assured me that she has access to the seeds. If anyone else knows of sources of the seeds please see Desperately Seeking to contact Professor Heiser. He also says, “I read “Plants and People” cover-to-cover when it arrives.”

Felix Coe has written to request field techniques (see “Desperately Seeking”). He also includes in his letter, “Thanks for the tidbits in the SEB Newsletter, they have been very informative.”

New York Botanical Garden’s Librarian has written to request copies of the newsletter. I am gathering the details to send copies to all of our subscribing institutions.

If you have librarians at your institutions who would make a special place for our Newsletter, encourage them to subscribe in the future.

Dr. Rainer Haase has written from Brazil to say that he is a botanist based in Mato Grosso. He has been involved with vegetation ecology for the past ten years and collects plant specimens as well. Contact him at Caixa Postal 3091, 78,090 Cuiba MT Brazil. (Editor’s note: No place compares to Boulder; thanks for your comments.)

Wilbur Settle has written to clarify that his classes at the State University of New York, Oneonta, are entitled Economic Botany and this should not be confusing to those who are looking for classes in Ethnobotany. The list I have composed are classes in all these fields. Thank you for writing. I will make it clear when I redistribute the list in the Fall that the classes are both Economic Botany and Ethnobotany.

Alan Hickman has written to say that he saw “Plants and People” in the Strybing Arboretum library and would like to join. He also sent a copy of an announcement for a meeting on Plants, Chamanismo Y Estados de Conciencia that took place in November, 1992, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. I have the list of participants if someone would like a copy.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Austin of the Florida Atlantic University is our new Book Review Editor. Professor Austin is an authority on Ipomea, and a frequent contributor to our journal. If you have any books you would like to see reviewed contact him at: Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431, 407-367-3320.

The Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden of Captain Cook, Hawaii, has been awarded $36,000 by the San Francisco-based Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. The 12-acre garden is part of the Bishop Museum, the Hawaii State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The garden is dedicated to research, conservation, and interpretation of land use and plants of cultural value in traditional Hawaii. The grant enables the garden to build storage facilities and a new nursery for propagation of rare native plants and crops. Other contributors are the Cooke Foundation and the Robert E. Black Memorial Trust of Hawaii.

FOR WOMEN ONLY
The Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador, A Shamanic Botanical Adventure, April 29-May 15, 1993. Beginning in Quito, Ecuador, this pilgrimage weaves together the heart of what Songlines is about and promises to be the adventure of a lifetime. The trip includes some time in villages where women share their arts. Led by experienced ethnobotanists; Kat Harrison-McKenna, Adele Getty, and Ecuadorian Ethnobotanist Rocco Alarcon, this will be an interactive adventure with the traditional people of Ecuador.

The Healing Forest Conservancy has announced an annual award to be given in honor of Dr. Richard E. Schultes at the annual meeting of The Society for Economic Botany in Miami, Florida. The award will be given for outstanding contributions in the field of ethnobotany or indigenous people issues related to ethnobotany. The Healing Forest Conservancy, the non-profit arm of Shaman Pharmaceuticals, was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to the conservation of biocultural diversity. The International Selection Committee is chaired by Dr. Michael J. Balick, Philecology Curator of Economic Botany and Director of the New York Botanical Garden Institute of Economic Botany. Send nominations to: Katy Moran, Director of the Healing Forest Conservancy, 3521 S Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

IN MEMORIAL
Earl Emmett Smith, 75, an economic botanist and retired AID employee, died of heart failure on December 15, 1992, while on a birding expedition in New Mexico. Dr. Smith spent some of his earlier years at the USDA as a plant explorer in Asia and Latin America, where he collected medicinal plants and forage grasses. He moved on to AID, where he was stationed in Peru and worked on a wide variety of projects, including the establishment of the Peruvian Forestry Service, a plant inventory of the Peruvian Amazon, and agrarian reform. He was also stationed in Bolivia for 6 years as an advisor to the Minister of Agriculture. A celebration of life was held in his honor in Pennsylvania on January 24, 1993.
I want to thank Mark Blumenthal for his Herb Clips. Mark is the Director of American Botanical Council in Austin, Texas. Contact him at 512-331-8868 for more information about the “Herb Clips.” I rely on Mark’s clips because it has become an efficient use of my time to review articles for you. However, I feel that these are too limited because they only discuss medicinal plants and our membership is more diverse. I would encourage all of you to send me more botanical news about anthropology, genetics, crops, and archaeology.

Center for Disease Control’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, October 30, 1992 by Rosanne Philen, MD and HHS News, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services discuss reports of hepatotoxicity from ingestion of chaparral, Larrea tridentata. These articles are about several news releases that discuss hepatitis reports from chaparral. The herb industry has responded to this regulatory action by voluntarily suspending sales until more information is found. Herb Research Foundation reports that there is no sound scientific literature that suggests hepatotoxicity as a result of chaparral ingestion. (Editor’s note: FDA continues to harass and “raid” herb companies, seizing any product containing chaparral)

In the Wall Street Journal, November 20, 1992, writer Bruce Ingersoll completed an article on the Wisconsin ginseng harvest. Marathon County is the largest center of U.S. ginseng cultivation, providing 90% of all ginseng grown in the United States. This annual harvest reaped $92 million dollars in 1991. The article quotes Doctors Duke and Farnsworth about the scientific data on ginseng. The writer discussed some interesting information, but seemed to dwell on the aphrodisiac properties, and not the more important research.

The Reporter, Vanderbilt University, November 3, 1992, contained an article on Aloe vera. They demonstrated that “the agent, in a dose response relationship, enhances the mechanisms by which tumors and virally infected cells in transplants are destroyed by killer cells, and that the mechanism of action of the compound was to activate the monocyte component of this multicell interaction.” The original paper was published in Immunopharmacology and Immunotoxicology, March/June 1992.

Whole Foods, January 1993, contained an article by Mark Blumenthal on “Ayurveda’s Most Popular Herbs.” Ayurvedic remedies are rich in Indian tradition and Mark was only able to cover a few herbs in the article. I will cover a few less in the review. Emblica officinalis, has an unusually high content of vitamin C, 720mg/100g fresh pulp. Not only does it exceed the vitamin C level of orange juice, it is used for the lungs and as an anti-inflammatory. Withania somnifera root is valued for its capability to increase sperm count and women’s fertility. It is also used as a sedative. Commiphora mukul is famed for its ability to lower cholesterol. If this information intrigues you, seek the entire article — not only does it include more herbs, but it contains references as well.

Wall Street Journal, November 17, 1992, highlights the FDA’s approval of taxol as an ovarian cancer treatment. The recommendation was based primarily on 5 studies that showed tumor shrinkage in 20-30% of the patients. It also stated the side effects that occur from this treatment. They include hair loss, numbness of extremities, and white blood cell decrease.

Washington Insight, December 15, 1992, announces Indena as a player in the taxol producing game. They collect needles from Europe and Asia and have initiated plantings. Their other important extract is one obtained from blueberries for night blindness.

Fitoterapia. Volume LXIII, No.2, 1992, and subsequent articles are by World Health Organization’s Programme Manager,
ETHNOBOTANETNEWS
(from page 5)

Olayiwola Akerele. It summarizes WHO Guidelines for the Assessment of Herbal Medicines. It proposes that WHO will continue to have its members develop pharmacopoeial monographs, assessments or safety, guidelines for clinical assessment, and ultimately select 10 diseases and 10 plants to review in-depth.

Nutrition and Cancer. Vol. 18, No. 1, 1992. This article reviews many studies that examine the relationship between common foods and certain types of cancers.

Diversity. Vol. 8, No. 4, 1992. This entire issue is dedicated to genetic diversity as emphasized by the Clinton-Gore team. There are several articles of interest. The following points were raised at an October 1992 seminar sponsored by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation in collaboration with UNEP, IBPGR, and the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute: concern that the farmers were never included in the formal sector of conservation, that new cultivars were being introduced that are not adaptable to the unpredictable climates, and that people no longer knew their plant heritage and could not fall back on traditional crops when it would be advantageous. With the loss of the traditional farmers there is little or no hope for the plants' survival.

In Indonesia, the participants at an international conference on plant conservation resolved to initiate multilevel networks for conservation. The networks will include central offices; communication at all levels; and a system to identify, preserve, and develop plant life through cooperative work between the international institutions and Indonesian organizations.

Biological Conservation Newsletter, January 1993, published by the Smithsonian, included a review of the activities at the Center for Economic and Social Research on the Global Environment at the University of East Anglia and University College, London. Their purpose has been to examine the range of values of medicinal plants. The valuation of the plants often is used to justify conservation projects. In developing countries, the value is shifted to the cultural aspects of conservation. For more information contact CSERGE, Kate Brown, School of Environmental Science, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UK.

New York Times, Sunday, January 10, 1993. NIH has been budgeted $2 million for the Office of Alternative Medicine. The Institute office will welcome proposals to explore therapies outside the mainstream of western medicine. (Editor's note: well — it's about time someone looked at affordable alternative medicines.)

Herb Companion, February/March 1993, has a great article by Steven Foster on the Botanical Research Institute of Fort Worth, Texas. BRIT is unique in that its sole purpose is to familiarize the public with the science of botany by making their herbarium and library accessible to the community. They have special exhibits, several rare original copies of older texts precious to those of us partial to plants, and an herbarium. BRIT will soon be moving to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens where its proximity to live specimens will enhance its existence as a valuable public resource.

Herbal Gram, Number 27, Summer 1992. This special issue features many excellent articles on New World herbalism. The focus on the New World recognizes indigenous people and the issues of people's rights today in a struggle to choose their own medicines and healing methods. Articles include, "The Badianus Manuscript," "Rainforest Remedies," "Lost Narcotics of the Shawnee," "Health Freedom Bill..." "The Artemis Project, (Preserving U.S. Biodiversity )," and "Conservation and Tropical Medicinal Plant Research." Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime issue.
DESPERATELY SEEKING

MANAGER OF GRADUATE STUDIES
The New York Botanical Garden is looking for a Ph.D. in botany or biology with specialization in systematic and/or economic botany. This person should have an excellent teaching record, experience in administering academic programs, and have an academic specialization be compatible with the Garden's science program. For details contact Wendy Brenner at the Personnel Department: 212-220-8700, FAX 212-220-6504

ETHNOBOTANICAL COLLECTING
Need some American herbs, in particular Hypericum perforatum? Contact Richard Thielges for ethnobotanical collecting capabilities. His address is: 1850 Dry Gulch, Helena, MT 59601, 204-443-2327.

NEED A WRITER????
Respected author seeks stimulating long-term major project for specialized or general audience. Work at home (fully computer equipped) or on site in Northern California. Outstanding references. Louise Lacey 510-232-9865

SEEDS
Charles Heiser, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Botany at Indiana University wants viable seeds of the "wild" or weedy tobacco, Nicotiana rustica, from eastern North America. He is also interested in domesticated N. rustica from the Americas. Send these to Charles Heiser, Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

ALKALOIDS
Felix G. Coe is looking for field tests that would identify plants that contain alkaloids. He is also looking for preservation techniques used to conserve plant specimens for later alkaloid testing. Contact him at: University of Connecticut, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Box U-43, Storrs, CT 06268.

CHINESE VENOMS
Shilin Hu of the Institute of Chinese Materica Medica, China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing, China has snake and scorpion venom for sale. Anyone who can wants to buy or can direct him to buyers, please contact him at the above address.

DONATIONS
I have received a copy of "Enhancing the Future of the Land Grant System," published from a symposium sponsored by the Board of Agriculture, National Research Council. Whoever is interested, please let me know and I will send you the copy.

I often receive unsolicited books on plant genetics to review. This is not my area of expertise and I would appreciate a bibliophile to help me decide to whom I can donate the texts. Contact me at 213 East Grand Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080-4812, 415-952-7070.
CROSS POLLINATION

I have requested members to share insights from their field experiences. The following is one of the few I have received. I think that these thoughts are valuable for us to share as we work with peoples around the world. I repeat my request again for other comments about field experiences or networking.

Amy Eisenberg studied in Formosa and sent us the following insights from her field experience:

1. Select your assistants carefully.
2. Don’t consume too much betel nut.
3. Verify that communications are clear.
4. Stay healthy, eat well, be mentally calm and rest adequately.
5. Keep an accurate notebook; don’t rely on your memory.
6. Do not be manipulated by political interests.
7. Women should be especially careful of their safety.
8. Keep your objectives clear at all times.

Her most important thoughts are:

1. Learn the language and make friends. Without these your work will be limited.
2. Build trusting and respectful relationships within the culture in which you are living. These are basic ethical requirements for all ethnobotanists.
3. Respect for the culture you are learning includes instituting healthy sanitary practices while in the field.
4. Be sensitive to customs, including dress codes.
5. Respect intellectual property rights.
6. Trust your own belief systems.
7. Be honest and realistic.

RECIPES FROM THE FIELD

Creole Temptation

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<tr>
<th>2 eggs</th>
<th>1 lemon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 bananas</td>
<td>½ orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup bread crumbs</td>
<td>4 tsp butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup sugar</td>
<td>1 cup milk</td>
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Beat eggs well and add chopped bananas, bread crumbs, and sugar. Mix well. Grate the rind of half of the lemon into the mixture, add juice of the lemon and orange. Melt the butter, add milk, and mix into the batter. Mash well with spoon. Grease a medium-sized glass bowl and sprinkle with sugar, then pour in mixture. Place the bowl in the oven dish half full of water and cook at 350°F for 1½ hours. If the water evaporates, add more boiling water. When cooked, run a hot knife round the edge of the bowl and gently tip out onto a serving dish, tapping the bottom of the mold in order to loosen it. Serve with apricot sauce or jam, and whipped cream. Serves 6. From Plain and Fancy, an Auckland, New Zealand cookbook.
Sustainable Harvest and Marketing of Rain Forest Products, edited by Mark Plotkin and Lisa Famolare, published by Island Press, $20.00. This is a compilation of papers given at the Conservation International meeting in Panama in 1991. The premise of the meeting was that if conservation projects were to succeed, mutually beneficial programs must be set in place. These programs must benefit both the local people and their environment. The papers are divided into sections. The first section addresses the collection of data and the understanding of what ethnobotany and indigenous peoples are all about. The other sections review potential crops, palms, medicinal plants, and non-medicinal plants. Some attention is paid to existing programs and “green marketing.” These chapters supply not only valuable information, but also impart an awareness of the current biocultural diversity movement is enlightening.

In the Rain Forest by Catherine Caulfield. University of Chicago Press, 1991. This book was first printed in 1984 but I felt it was more timely to discuss it now at its reprinting. It is full of all sorts of information about what can and does happen when the rainforest is developed without thought of the native inhabitants. The author has spent a fair bit of time researching the field and provides a realistic though slightly out-of-date account of the destruction of the rainforest and its people.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Botany, edited by Michael Allaby, published by Oxford University Press in New York. This text is available in paperback and hard cover. This is a good guide to economic plants and botanical terms but does not have the breadth or usefulness of Mabberly’s Plant Book when seeking information about plant use. It is a great first attempt and I look forward to its expansion in the future.

Plant Form, an Illustrated Guide to Flowering Plant Morphology by Adrian Bell, published by Oxford University Press. This book is a great adventure for the reader. As you all know, botany is a science of terms, and this text makes it very enjoyable while being informative. I would definitely recommend this for classes in morphology or taxonomy or even beginning botany classes. The photographs are excellent and, along with the drawings, are very descriptive. If you browse through this book, and you’ll probably buy it.

Conservation of Medicinal Plants by Olayiwola Akerele, Vernon Heywood, and Hugh Synge, published by Cambridge University Press, New York, London. This is the proceedings of the International Consultation held on March 21-27, 1988 in Chaing Mai, Thailand. The division of chapters includes: Issues of Medicinal Plants; Science, Industry, and Medicinal Plants; Techniques to Conserve Medicinal Plants; Policies To Conserve Medicinal Plants; Experiences from Programmes to Conserve Medicinal Plants.

Conserving the Wild Relatives of Crops by Erich Hoyt, published by Addison-Wesley, 1992. This booklet is also available in Spanish and Portuguese. The booklet is clear and concise, geared to the individual learning about the conservation of crops. It begins by discussing the rise of agriculture, the advancements that genetics have lead to in current agricultural systems, and the importance of conserving wild relatives. The booklet continues to demonstrate the importance of taking inventory and then managing the information through conservation programs initiated by the UNESCO program, Man and the Biosphere.
TRENDS IN SEED DEMAND

Among vegetables, hot chiles continue to be very popular, especially the Andean Aji. In the cucurbits, the more unusual the better seems to be the trend — whether black-fleshed Honduran squash, Boer pumpkin, or Hopi storing watermelon, all odd types are in high demand. Even inedible cucurbits, such as Marah spp. and the Lagenaria gourds are quite popular. Though friends in the trade report high demand for the tiny ornamental pumpkins, this trend has bypassed us completely.

Edible flowers have been a very popular trend. Though popularity has leveled out, more information is needed on nutrition as well as toxicity. Several publishers have had to recall cookbooks due to the inclusion of toxic flowers within their recipes. Are there any comprehensive hard-data reviews of edible flowers? (Editor’s note: Here’s a great job opportunity for an economic botanist.)

The floral trade has popularized many new varieties of ornamental wheats: long and short spiked, black, tan, grey or those with contrasting awns. There is a strong resurgence in demand for the common old-fashioned four o’clock, Mirabilis jalapa. The old Datura metel varieties are popular again, and we are entirely dependent on amateur growers for these. This group would benefit from reselection—some of the colors and degrees of doubleness seen in old books have disappeared and professional growers would be an asset here. As the older datura, the old open-pollinated Petunia varieties are slowly disappearing. As they disappear, the demand increases for the — ‘Easier to grow than the F-1s’ and ‘Still look like flowers.’ We have a report from the custodians of the British National Collection of Passiflora that demand is rising for this group, and we can report the same. Other groups in high demand include Rheum, Hibiscus, Liatris, several Acacia species, and the hardier species of Eucalyptus.

In Seed & Crops Industry, Volume 44, #1, editor Bill Freiberg reports that Agracetus, a subsidiary of W.H. Grace, now claims a broadbased “patent on all products from all genetically-engineered cotton produced by any genetic engineering technology whatsoever.” According to the Patent & Trademark Office and the U.S. Fair Trade Commission, under current patent law, their claim may be valid. Many of us in recent decades spoke out against the extension of patent rights to plants and genetically engineered organisms, warning that this would increase the monopolistic control of agriculture. While we might take a grim satisfaction in seeing our predictions come to pass, this is a disturbing development. The laws of patent protection, as they are applied to living organisms, are not based on a firm foundation of sound biology, and I fear they will cause problems for years to come.

The same issue of Seed & Crops Industry, reports about the activities of Iowa State University plant breeder, Dr. Arnel Hallauer. We would like to applaud his behavior for insisting that his three new corn inbred lines be released to the public royalty-free. With backing from the Dean of the College of Agriculture, he prevailed over the University’s office of technology transfer to keep this seeds royalty-free.

As we can see from the above news, our conceptions of intellectual property are rapidly being rendered obsolete by changes in technology and society, and are increasingly applied contrary to their original intent. The entire concept may well have outlived its usefulness.
With the coming restructuring of health-care systems in the U.S., we may well have a window of opportunity to insure the protection of phytotherapy and other traditional folk medical practices. The benefits would include the preservation of our rapidly vanishing ethnomedical knowledge (a proven fertile source of valuable new compounds and therapies of interest to allopats), the reduction of health-care costs by insuring the availability of inexpensive, generally safe and effective phyotherapies, and the encouraging of personal responsibility through self-treatment and learning to care for each other. Since all living organisms may be observed to seek well-being, and certainly many vertebrates aid each other in obtaining well-being, and still further, consume medicinal plants to this end, we may consider phytotherapy to be a fundamental biological right, a "deep right" with far more ancient precedent than most.

**MEETINGS**

The First International Conference on Human Factor Engineering will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on July 7-10, 1993. The objective is to further discussions on the importance and role of the "Human Factor" in political development, industrialization, economic development, and growth in developing countries. **Contact:** Dr. Senyo B.S.K. Adjiboloso, Director, IIHFD, Faculty of Business and Economics, Trinity Western University, 7600 Glover Road, Langley, British Columbia V3A 6H4, Canada, 604-421-4574.

The Thirteenth Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences will be held in Mexico City on July 29-August 5, 1993. Sessions will include Grupos Indigenas Y Recursos Naturales, Biodiversity and Resource Management, Community Participation, Traditional Health Care Systems, Socio-Cultural and Environmental Dimensions, and lots more. **Contact:** Paul Schmidt, Program Coordinator, Instituto de Investigaciones Antropologicas, Cuidad Universitaria, 04510 Mexico D.F., Mexico FAX 011-52-5-548-3667

AAAS held their annual meeting in Boston on February 10-11, 1993. They held a two day session on "Teaching Ethics in Science and Engineering." The purpose was to assist educators in the development of undergraduate and graduate programs that address the wide range of ethical concerns associated with professionals in the sciences and engineering. **Contact:** Stephanie Bird, Special Assistant to the Associate Provost, MIT, Room 12-187, Cambridge, MA 02139.

A Roundtable For African Graduate Students was held following the annual AAAS meeting on February 13, 1993. It was designed to bring together African graduate students in sciences to explore career concerns and to enhance networking among individuals in the Northwest. Also sponsored by the Sub-Saharan Program is the meeting in Washington on May 18, 1993, for African Women In Science. **Contact:** Amy Auerbacher Wilson, Director, 1333 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

The Organization for Tropical Studies is offering two courses in 1993. The first, "An Intensive Field-oriented Introduction to Tropical Diversity in Rainforest, Seasonally Dry Forest and Cloud Forest Ecosystems" will be in Costa Rica on August 2-26 at La Selva field station, Palo Verde, and Guanacaste National Parks. **Contact:** OTS, P.O. Box DM, Duke Station, NC 27706 by May 15, 1993. The second course, "Tropical Diversity" is a collaborative effort involving the Smithsonian and Brazil's Universidade Estadual de Campinas and OTS. It will be in Brazil from August 4-September 3. It will emphasize the ecology of Amazonian rainforests. **Contact:** Prof. W.W. Benson, Curso de Pos-Graduacao em Ecologia, Instituto de Biologia, UNICAMP, 6109, 13.081, Campinas, SP, Brazil.
RETURN THIS PORTION

Please take the time to fill in this section and return it to me Trish Flaster, 213 East Grand Ave., South San Francisco, CA 94080-4812 with your name, location and concentration of your field investigation, and 10 things that you have learned from your research and 10 mistakes you would be willing to share with your colleagues. The purpose here is to help each other learn from our experiences no matter how simple or silly they may seem to you. It could save precious resources in the field. Thank you.

Name: ____________________________
Location of field investigation: ________________________________
Concentration of study: ______________________________________
Ten mistakes:

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Ten most important things learned:

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