

especially because it covers so well such a variety of topics.

Finally, my compliments to Springer-Verlag on impeccable book production.

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Phytochemistry, 1975, Vol. 14, p. 2315. Pergamon Press. Printed in England.

Plantes Medicinales de la Côte d'Ivoire. by A. BOUQUET and M. DEBRAY, Travaux et Documents de L'O.R.S.T.O.M. No. 32, Paris. 1974. 70 Fr.

As a continuation of the publications on overseas medicinal plants published by L'Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer (L'O.R.S.T.O.M.), two French pharmacists have reviewed information on the folk medicinal uses and chemical constituents of genera indigenous to the Ivory Coast. Some 160 pages of French text lists alphabetically 116 families, text and references being given for each family. For scientists interested in the plant kingdom as a source of medicinal agents, the inclusion of tables of the authors' screening results for some 39 of the families, is noteworthy. Each of these tables lists the plant part examined, together with the results of tests on extracts for the presence of alkaloids, quinones, saponins, steroids, triterpenes, flavonoids and tannins. Although some 1972 references are included, there are only a few references later than

1969 and this is unfortunate since in some instances the information could well have been included. For example, in the section on Loganiaceae there is no mention of review articles on the ethnobotany or on the alkaloid screening of African spp. of *Strychnos* (published in 1970 and 1971), and in the section on Rubiaceae references to the alkaloids of *Nauclea diderrichii* are omitted. (published in 1970 and 1972). The book is not free from typographical errors and in the review copy it is to be regretted that pages 189–204 of the index are missing. For a paperback of 230 pages, the book is highly priced at 70 Fr. for individual use, but for libraries it can be recommended as a useful supplement to the literature on African medicinal plants since it contains abundant information on plants which require further chemical and pharmacological investigation.

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