

Volume 3
Issue 3
May- June 2024

The Mithibai Chronicles



The Mithibai Chronicles is a bimonthly newsletter of Mithibai College Jitendra Library. The main objective of this Newsletter is to provide information about New Arrivals and other library resources to library users. Additionally, it serves as a communication channel between a library and its users. Activities conducted in the library are communicated to the users via this Newsletter. The Mithibai Chronicles will surely quench the thirst of the young, vibrant minds of Mithibai College. We are sure that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter.

***Mrs. Archana Garate
Librarian***

केवल कुछ समय के लिए पुस्तकों को रटकर ज्ञान अर्जित न करे, बल्कि पुस्तकों को ध्यान से पढ़कर पूरी उम्र भर के लिए ज्ञान अर्जित करे।

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**Happy
Reading!**



या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला या शुभ्रवस्त्रावृता।
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा या श्वेतपद्मासना॥
या ब्रह्माच्युत शंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवैः सदा वन्दिता।
सा मां पातु सरस्वती भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा॥1॥

अर्थात्

माँ भगवती सरस्वती जो विद्या तथा ज्ञान की देवी है, कुन्द के फूल, चंद्रमा, हिमराशि और मोती के हार की तरह धवल वर्ण की हैं तथा जो हमेशा श्वेत वस्त्र धारण करती हैं, एवं इनके हाथ में वीणा-दण्ड शोभायमान रहती है, जो श्वेत कमलों पर आसन ग्रहण किये हुए हैं और भगवान ब्रह्मा, विष्णु एवं शंकर आदि देवताओं द्वारा हमेशा पूजी जाती है, वही संपूर्ण जड़ता तथा अज्ञान को दूर करने वाली माँ सरस्वती हर विपत्ति से हमारी रक्षा करें!

BOOK REVIEW

HERBARIUM HANDBOOK

EDITED BY

DIANE BRIDSON &
LEONARD FORMAN

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The Herbarium Handbook, co-authored by Diane Bridson and Leonard Forman, is a highly regarded and meticulously detailed manual for the establishment, maintenance, and utilization of herbarium collections. Published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this book serves as an essential resource for anyone involved in the management and curation of herbarium specimens. Its relevance spans across various sectors, including botanical research, conservation efforts, and education, making it a cornerstone for herbarium scientists, curators, students, and even natural historians.

The handbook opens with a thorough introduction to the concept and significance of herbaria, grounding the reader in the historical context while explaining the continued relevance of these collections in modern scientific research. Bridson and Forman emphasize that herbaria are not merely historical archives but dynamic and critical tools in the study of plant taxonomy, biodiversity, and conservation. This framework sets the stage for the more technical content that follows, as the authors argue for the crucial role of herbaria in modern biological research, particularly in the light of ongoing environmental changes and the need for thorough taxonomic documentation.

One of the key strengths of the Herbarium Handbook is its systematic approach to the practical aspects of herbarium management. The text is divided into sections that cover a wide range of topics, including the collection, preparation, and preservation of plant specimens. Each section provides a detailed, step-by-step guide to these processes, ensuring that even novices can follow along. For instance, the chapter on specimen collection addresses the proper methods for gathering plant materials in the field, focusing on best practices to ensure that specimens retain their scientific value upon arrival at the herbarium. This includes discussions on plant identification, the use of GPS for location recording, and ethical considerations in collection, such as obtaining appropriate permits and avoiding overharvesting from sensitive habitats.

The preservation section of the book is similarly comprehensive, detailing the methods for pressing, drying, and mounting specimens. It also discusses the importance of maintaining a controlled environment within the herbarium to prevent damage from pests, mold, and humidity. The authors provide technical advice on everything from herbarium cabinet design to pest control measures, reflecting their deep understanding of the complexities of long-term specimen storage. This is particularly valuable in regions where climatic conditions pose challenges for specimen conservation.

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Moreover, the handbook dedicates significant attention to the labeling and cataloging of specimens. This section delves into international standards for data recording, ensuring that herbarium collections maintain their scientific utility for future research. The authors emphasize the importance of proper labeling, as misidentifications or incomplete data can compromise the scientific value of herbarium specimens. This focus on meticulous record-keeping is one of the hallmarks of the Herbarium Handbook, making it an indispensable resource for anyone tasked with managing a herbarium collection.

Another critical component of the book is its treatment of herbarium digitization. Bridson and Forman acknowledge the growing trend toward digital herbaria, which allow for broader access to plant specimens through online databases. They offer practical advice on how to digitize specimens, including the use of high-resolution scanners and appropriate software for image cataloging and data management. However, it should be noted that the book was written before some of the more recent advances in digital archiving, so while it introduces the concept of digitization, it does not delve into the latest technologies available in this field. As such, readers may find this section somewhat limited if they are looking for cutting-edge information on digital herbarium management.

Despite this minor limitation, the Herbarium Handbook remains an invaluable resource for both traditional and modern herbarium practices. The balance it strikes between practical advice and broader theoretical discussions is one of its major strengths. The authors do not merely describe how to perform tasks but also explain why these tasks are important for the scientific value of the herbarium. For example, they provide in-depth explanations of how herbarium specimens can be used in taxonomic revisions, climate change studies, and even forensic investigations. This broader contextualization ensures that readers understand the far-reaching implications of their work in the herbarium.

The book also includes several appendices that offer additional tools and resources for herbarium management. These include sample forms for specimen cataloging, a glossary of botanical terms, and a list of suppliers for herbarium materials. These appendices enhance the handbook's utility as a go-to reference for all aspects of herbarium management, particularly for those working in remote or resource-limited settings where access to specialized materials might be a challenge.

One of the more commendable aspects of this book is its accessibility. Despite the technical nature of the subject, Bridson and Forman manage to maintain a clear and approachable writing style throughout. This ensures that the Herbarium Handbook is not only useful for seasoned professionals but also for students and amateur botanists who may be encountering herbarium science for the first time. The inclusion of numerous illustrations, photographs, and diagrams further aids in the clarity of the material, making complex processes easier to understand.

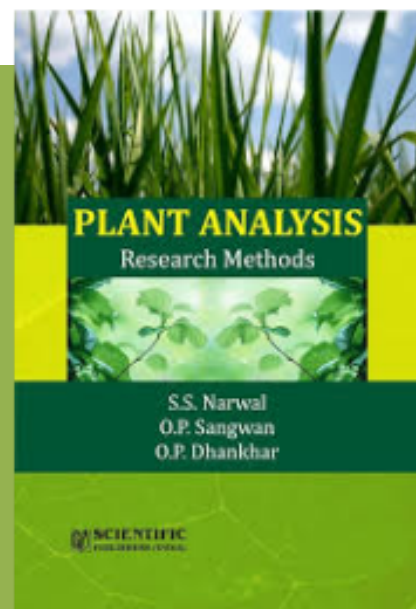
The Herbarium Handbook by Diane Bridson and Leonard Forman is a highly authoritative and comprehensive resource that remains essential for herbarium curators, botanists, and researchers alike. Its detailed approach to the practical aspects of herbarium management, combined with its broader discussions on the scientific significance of these collections, make it a standout text in the field. While the book could benefit from more recent updates on digitization, its core content remains relevant and valuable. Bridson and Forman have succeeded in creating a manual that not only instructs but also inspires, reminding readers of the critical role that herbaria play in our understanding of plant biodiversity and conservation. For anyone involved in the curation or use of herbarium specimens, this handbook is an indispensable tool that will undoubtedly enhance the quality and impact of their work.

BOOK REVIEW

PLANT ANALYSIS RESEARCH METHODS

BY S.S. NARWAL & O. SANGWAN

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S.S. Narwal's *Plant Analysis Research Methods* is a thorough and practical guide aimed at researchers and students who engage in the chemical and physiological analysis of plants. The book's breadth and depth are valuable for researchers in fields such as plant physiology, biochemistry, and agriculture, offering methodologies that span from classical approaches to contemporary techniques in plant analysis. This text is a well-rounded introduction for both novice and experienced researchers, guiding them through the techniques required for analyzing the chemical makeup of plants and their interactions with the environment.

From the outset, Narwal's book establishes its relevance in the increasingly critical field of plant research. The need to understand plant composition and its interaction with environmental factors has never been more important, especially in the context of agricultural development, environmental sustainability, and plant biotechnology. Plant analysis methods are crucial for a wide range of studies, from assessing soil-plant interactions to analyzing nutrient deficiencies, plant stress responses, and metabolic pathways.

One of the strengths of *Plant Analysis Research Methods* is its broad scope. The book covers a comprehensive range of analytical techniques that can be used to study the mineral composition, biochemical processes, and physiological states of plants. This includes well-established methods such as titrimetric analysis, flame photometry, and atomic absorption spectrophotometry, alongside more modern techniques like high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and gas chromatography (GC). The wide array of methods covered allows the book to serve as a general resource for plant scientists working in diverse research areas.

The structure of the book is particularly beneficial for readers looking for clear and organized guidance. Each chapter is devoted to a specific aspect of plant analysis, such as the analysis of primary and secondary metabolites, mineral content, and various biochemical markers. The book begins with a general overview of plant analytical techniques, providing a strong foundation before moving into more specialized topics. Each chapter not only describes the principles of the methods but also includes detailed protocols that walk the reader through the processes step by step. This is particularly useful for students or researchers who may not have prior experience with these techniques.

One of the most useful aspects of this book is its emphasis on the practical applications of plant analysis. Each method is presented in a way that is relevant to real-world research problems, whether it be analyzing nutrient deficiencies in crops or assessing the physiological responses of plants to abiotic stress. Narwal ensures that readers understand the implications of the analytical results in terms of plant biology and ecology, which makes the book more than just a collection of laboratory protocols. For example, the section on chlorophyll analysis doesn't simply describe how to measure chlorophyll levels but also explains how these levels correlate with plant health and productivity. This added layer of interpretation helps bridge the gap between raw data and meaningful scientific conclusions.

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Despite the book's overall utility, it does have some limitations. While it provides a solid foundation in plant analysis methods, the coverage of more advanced and cutting-edge techniques is somewhat limited. For instance, the field of plant metabolomics, which has grown significantly in recent years, is not explored in detail. Metabolomics involves the large-scale study of metabolites within a plant system, often using advanced tools such as mass spectrometry coupled with sophisticated bioinformatics analysis. This is an area where Narwal's text falls short, as it does not delve deeply into the computational tools or the high-resolution technologies that are increasingly becoming essential in plant biochemical analysis. Researchers looking for cutting-edge methodologies, particularly in the field of omics sciences, might find this book somewhat lacking.

Moreover, while Narwal covers traditional plant analysis techniques well, the text is heavily laboratory-focused, with relatively little attention given to field-based methods. In modern plant science, there is a growing emphasis on in situ analyses, particularly in agricultural and ecological research, where portable instruments and non-destructive methods are becoming more prevalent. These technologies allow for real-time monitoring of plant physiological states in the field, which is crucial for large-scale studies. The book would benefit from a chapter or section on these types of techniques, which would broaden its appeal to ecologists and agronomists working in field conditions.

In terms of accessibility, the book is generally well-written and easy to follow, with detailed explanations of the technical aspects of each method. However, the text could benefit from more visual aids. While some figures and tables are included, there is a lack of detailed diagrams that could help readers better understand the experimental setups and instrumentation. Given the technical nature of the subject matter, more illustrations would enhance the clarity and usability of the book, especially for readers who are not familiar with certain equipment or laboratory layouts.

In terms of the academic rigor, *Plant Analysis Research Methods* is a solid and reliable resource. The protocols are based on established scientific principles, and Narwal provides numerous references to primary literature, which allows readers to explore the topics further if needed. The bibliographic references at the end of each chapter are comprehensive, offering a pathway for deeper engagement with the topics discussed. This ensures that the book can function not only as a practical manual but also as a springboard for further academic research.

A particularly strong aspect of the book is its attention to the integration of plant analysis techniques with broader research goals. Narwal emphasizes the importance of understanding the physiological and ecological contexts in which the analytical results are interpreted. For example, the book highlights how the analysis of plant nutrient levels can inform agricultural practices by identifying deficiencies or toxicities that affect crop productivity. This connection between laboratory analysis and real-world applications adds to the book's value, particularly for those working in applied plant sciences.

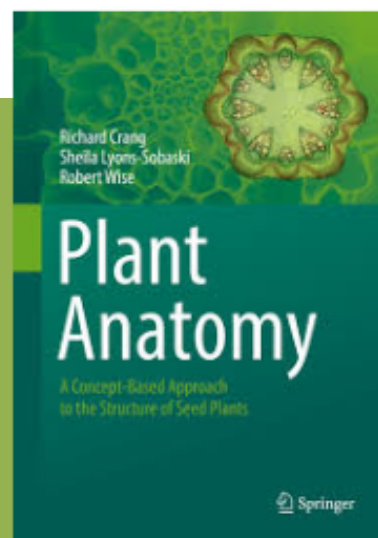
Plant Analysis Research Methods by S.S. Narwal is a comprehensive and practical guide for researchers in plant science. It covers a wide array of techniques, from classical methods to some modern approaches, making it an essential resource for students, researchers, and professionals in the fields of plant biology, agriculture, and environmental science. While it could benefit from more coverage of advanced technologies and field-based methods, the book's strengths lie in its clear presentation of laboratory techniques and its focus on practical applications. Overall, Narwal's text remains a valuable tool for anyone involved in the chemical and physiological analysis of plants, providing both a solid foundation and practical guidance for plant research.

BOOK REVIEW

PLANT ANATOMY

BY R. CRANG & S.S. LYONS

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R. Crang's *Plant Anatomy* offers an in-depth exploration of the internal structures of plants, providing readers with a detailed understanding of the fundamental elements that define plant form and function. It is both a textbook for students and a comprehensive reference for researchers in botany, horticulture, and related fields. This book's meticulous coverage of plant anatomy, from basic cell structures to more complex tissues and organs, reflects its goal of providing a clear, yet thorough, framework for understanding how plants are built and how their anatomical features contribute to their survival, growth, and reproduction.

One of the central strengths of *Plant Anatomy* is Crang's ability to present complex scientific material in a way that is accessible without compromising on academic rigor. The text is organized logically, beginning with an overview of basic plant cell biology and progressing through tissues, vascular systems, and more specialized structures such as reproductive organs. Crang's approach is to provide both microscopic details and macroscopic perspectives, ensuring that readers can understand not only the structural components of plants but also how these structures work together to sustain plant life.

The opening chapters of *Plant Anatomy* deal with plant cells, the building blocks of all plant structures. Crang provides a detailed description of the various types of plant cells, including parenchyma, collenchyma, and sclerenchyma cells, and explains their functions in the context of plant physiology. These foundational chapters are critical for readers to understand the more complex tissues and organs described later in the book. The author also emphasizes the importance of the cell wall in plant cells, particularly in terms of its role in maintaining plant structure and regulating growth. Crang integrates recent research on cell wall composition and function, making these early chapters highly relevant for readers interested in modern plant science.

As the text progresses, Crang moves from individual cells to tissues, providing a detailed examination of the various plant tissues, such as dermal, vascular, and ground tissues. His discussion of the vascular system is particularly strong, highlighting the complexity and efficiency of the xylem and phloem in transporting water, nutrients, and sugars throughout the plant. Crang's explanations are clear and supported by excellent diagrams and micrographs, which help readers visualize these structures in detail. The emphasis on both form and function is key here, as Crang consistently ties anatomical features to their physiological roles in the plant.

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The book's chapters on root, stem, and leaf anatomy provide a comprehensive understanding of how these organs are structured and how they contribute to the overall function of the plant. In his discussion of roots, Crang explains the various layers of root tissue, including the epidermis, cortex, and vascular cylinder, and discusses the importance of root hairs in nutrient and water absorption. His coverage of stems is equally thorough, focusing on the arrangement of vascular bundles and the differences between monocot and dicot stem structures. Crang's attention to detail is particularly evident in his explanation of secondary growth in stems, where he describes the formation of wood and bark in woody plants. His discussion of leaves is similarly insightful, covering both the anatomy of the mesophyll and the role of stomata in gas exchange.

One of the distinguishing features of *Plant Anatomy* is its focus on the evolutionary and ecological significance of plant structures. Throughout the book, Crang integrates discussions of how various anatomical features have evolved to adapt to different environmental conditions. For example, he describes the adaptations of xerophytic plants, such as the thickened cuticles and sunken stomata that help minimize water loss in arid environments. This evolutionary perspective adds depth to the text, making it not just a descriptive work but one that encourages readers to think about the broader implications of plant anatomy.

Crang also devotes significant attention to plant reproductive structures, including flowers, fruits, and seeds. His examination of flower anatomy is particularly thorough, detailing the structure and function of each floral organ, from the sepals and petals to the stamens and carpels. This section of the book is enriched by Crang's discussion of the diversity of reproductive strategies in plants, such as the differences between wind-pollinated and insect-pollinated flowers. He also provides a detailed account of seed development and the anatomical features that protect and nourish the developing embryo.

The integration of developmental and functional perspectives is one of the book's most valuable contributions. Crang does not simply describe anatomical structures; he also explains how these structures develop and how they contribute to the plant's ability to survive, reproduce, and adapt to its environment. For example, in the chapter on plant growth and development, Crang explores the role of meristems—regions of undifferentiated cells responsible for new growth—in primary and secondary plant growth. His discussion of apical meristems in roots and shoots and their role in elongation growth provides a clear understanding of how plants grow and expand over time. This developmental perspective is crucial for understanding plant anatomy as a dynamic process rather than a static set of structures.

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Crang's treatment of plant anatomy is further enhanced by his use of high-quality illustrations and micrographs, which are essential for a subject as visually oriented as anatomy. The images are carefully selected to complement the text, providing readers with clear examples of the structures being described. This visual approach helps bridge the gap between theory and observation, making the book more engaging and accessible, especially for students who may be encountering plant anatomy for the first time.

Despite the book's many strengths, there are a few areas where it could be improved. For instance, while Crang covers the basics of plant anatomy comprehensively, his treatment of more advanced topics, such as molecular approaches to studying plant structure, is somewhat limited. The field of plant anatomy has been revolutionized in recent years by advances in molecular biology, imaging techniques, and bioinformatics, but these topics receive only cursory attention in the book. A more in-depth discussion of how modern techniques such as confocal microscopy and molecular genetics are being used to study plant anatomy would have been a welcome addition, particularly for advanced students and researchers who are interested in cutting-edge methodologies.

Additionally, while Crang does an excellent job of explaining the anatomy of typical plants, his coverage of plant diversity is somewhat limited. The book primarily focuses on angiosperms, with less attention given to other plant groups such as gymnosperms, ferns, and bryophytes. While angiosperms are certainly the most diverse and ecologically significant group of plants, a more balanced treatment of plant diversity would have added breadth to the book.

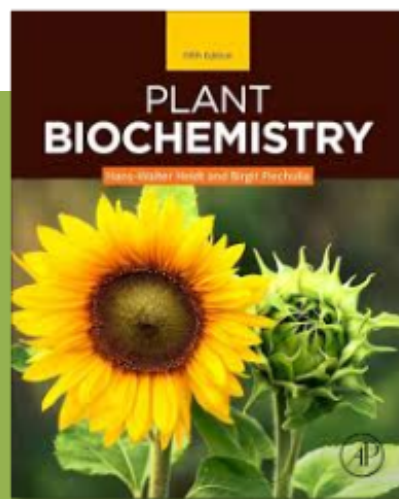
Plant Anatomy by R. Crang is an outstanding resource for students and researchers interested in the structural biology of plants. Its clear organization, accessible writing, and detailed explanations make it an excellent textbook for undergraduate courses in plant biology, while its depth and rigor also make it valuable for more advanced readers. Crang's emphasis on the functional and evolutionary significance of plant structures adds an important dimension to the text, encouraging readers to think critically about how anatomy relates to plant function and adaptation. While the book could benefit from more coverage of modern techniques and plant diversity, it remains a comprehensive and highly informative guide to plant structure, offering insights that will be valuable for both teaching and research in the field of botany.

BOOK REVIEW

PLANT BIOCHEMISTRY

BY HANS-WALTER HELDT

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Hans-Walter Heldt's *Plant Biochemistry* is a comprehensive and well-regarded textbook that delves into the molecular processes underpinning the life and functions of plants. The book serves as both an introductory and advanced resource, designed for students, researchers, and professionals in the fields of plant biology, agriculture, biochemistry, and biotechnology. Heldt's text stands out for its detailed explanation of plant metabolism and molecular biology, providing the reader with a thorough understanding of how plants carry out complex biochemical processes essential for their survival, growth, and development.

One of the key strengths of *Plant Biochemistry* is its clear and structured approach to presenting a wide range of topics, from basic plant cell structure to the intricate pathways of photosynthesis, respiration, and secondary metabolite production. The book opens with an introduction to plant cells and their unique features, such as the presence of cell walls, plastids, and vacuoles. Heldt takes care to highlight how these structures differ from those found in animal cells, setting the stage for a deeper understanding of plant-specific biochemical processes. This foundational knowledge is crucial, as it allows the reader to appreciate the complexities of plant biochemistry within the context of plant physiology and adaptation.

Heldt's discussion of photosynthesis is one of the standout sections of the book. Photosynthesis is perhaps the most critical biochemical process in plants, and Heldt provides a detailed and accessible explanation of both the light-dependent and light-independent reactions (Calvin cycle). He explains the role of chloroplasts in capturing light energy, the function of chlorophyll molecules in absorbing light, and how the energy generated is used to drive the production of organic molecules, such as sugars, that fuel plant growth. Heldt's explanation of the electron transport chain and the synthesis of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) through chemiosmosis is particularly well done, making these complex processes easier to grasp for readers at all levels.

What sets *Plant Biochemistry* apart from other textbooks is Heldt's ability to connect biochemical pathways to plant function and ecology. For instance, his discussion of photosynthesis is not limited to the biochemical reactions occurring within chloroplasts; he also examines how photosynthesis varies across different plant species, particularly in relation to their environment. Heldt discusses the adaptations of C₃, C₄, and CAM (Crassulacean Acid Metabolism) plants, providing insights into how different types of plants have evolved to optimize photosynthesis under varying environmental conditions. This evolutionary perspective is particularly valuable for students and researchers interested in plant ecology and the ways in which biochemistry underpins ecological adaptations.

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Heldt's treatment of plant respiration is equally comprehensive. He describes how plants break down carbohydrates, fats, and proteins to produce energy in the form of ATP, with an emphasis on the glycolysis pathway, the citric acid cycle, and oxidative phosphorylation in mitochondria. As with photosynthesis, Heldt provides both a molecular and a physiological perspective, helping readers understand how respiration fits into the broader context of plant metabolism. For instance, he discusses how the balance between photosynthesis and respiration determines a plant's overall energy budget, which in turn affects its growth and survival.

In addition to primary metabolism, Heldt delves into secondary metabolism, which involves the production of compounds that are not directly involved in growth or reproduction but play key roles in plant defense, signaling, and interaction with the environment. The book covers the synthesis of a wide range of secondary metabolites, including alkaloids, terpenoids, and phenolic compounds, many of which have important ecological functions such as deterring herbivores or attracting pollinators. Heldt's discussion of secondary metabolites is particularly interesting from an applied science perspective, as many of these compounds have medicinal or agricultural uses. By linking plant secondary metabolism to broader ecological and economic contexts, Heldt underscores the practical importance of understanding plant biochemistry.

Another area where *Plant Biochemistry* excels is in its coverage of plant hormones, which regulate growth and development. Heldt provides detailed explanations of the major classes of plant hormones, including auxins, gibberellins, cytokinins, abscisic acid, and ethylene. Each hormone is discussed in terms of its biosynthesis, mode of action, and role in various physiological processes, such as cell division, elongation, flowering, and stress responses. This section is invaluable for researchers and students in plant physiology, as it bridges the gap between biochemistry and plant developmental biology. Heldt's treatment of plant hormones is both accessible and thorough, making it easier to understand how these small molecules exert powerful control over plant life.

In the later chapters, Heldt transitions to more advanced topics, such as signal transduction pathways and plant responses to biotic and abiotic stresses. His discussion of how plants sense and respond to environmental cues, such as light, gravity, and temperature, highlights the complex molecular networks that allow plants to adapt to their surroundings. Heldt also covers plant-pathogen interactions, detailing the biochemical defenses plants employ to ward off attacks from microbes, insects, and other pests. This section is particularly relevant for researchers working in agriculture and plant biotechnology, where understanding plant stress responses is key to developing more resilient crops.

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One of the most commendable aspects of Heldt's book is its emphasis on the integration of plant biochemistry with molecular biology and genetics. For example, the book includes chapters on genetic engineering and biotechnology, where Heldt explains how advances in molecular genetics are being used to manipulate plant biochemistry for agricultural and industrial purposes. This includes discussions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), plant breeding, and the use of biotechnology to enhance plant resistance to pests, improve nutrient content, or increase yields. These topics are presented in a balanced manner, with Heldt addressing both the scientific potential and the ethical considerations surrounding the use of biotechnology in plants.

While Plant Biochemistry is a comprehensive and well-organized text, there are a few areas where it could be improved. One limitation is that the book's focus on fundamental biochemistry and classical plant physiology means that it does not cover some of the most cutting-edge research in plant biology, such as recent advances in plant genomics and systems biology. While Heldt does include some discussion of genetic engineering and molecular biology, readers looking for an in-depth treatment of the latest high-throughput technologies or bioinformatics approaches may find the coverage somewhat lacking. Nevertheless, for its intended audience, which includes undergraduate and graduate students as well as researchers in traditional fields of plant science, Plant Biochemistry provides a solid foundation in plant metabolism and molecular biology.

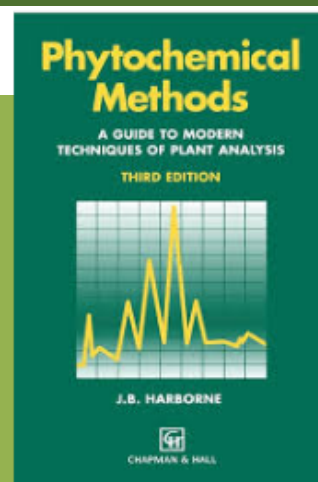
Hans-Walter Heldt's Plant Biochemistry is an exemplary textbook that offers a detailed and comprehensive exploration of plant biochemical processes. Its clear and logical structure, combined with its emphasis on connecting biochemical pathways to plant physiology and ecology, makes it a valuable resource for students and researchers alike. Whether one is studying the fundamental processes of photosynthesis and respiration, exploring the complexities of secondary metabolism, or investigating plant hormonal regulation, Heldt's book provides the necessary tools and knowledge to understand plant biochemistry in both theoretical and applied contexts. While it could benefit from more coverage of cutting-edge technologies, Plant Biochemistry remains an essential text for anyone involved in the study of plant science.

BOOK REVIEW

PHYTOCHEMICAL METHODS: A GUIDE TO MODERN TECHNIQUES OF PLANT ANALYSIS

BY J.B. HARBORNE

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J.B. Harborne's *Phytochemical Methods: A Guide to Modern Techniques of Plant Analysis* is a seminal work in the field of plant biochemistry and phytochemistry, serving as a vital resource for researchers involved in the study of plant secondary metabolites. First published in 1973 and revised over several editions, the book has become an authoritative guide for scientists investigating the chemical compounds produced by plants, which often play key roles in plant defense, reproduction, and human applications such as medicine and agriculture. Harborne's methodical and comprehensive approach to the techniques used in the analysis of phytochemicals offers both clarity and depth, making the book invaluable for students and researchers alike.

One of the primary strengths of *Phytochemical Methods* is its clear structure and logical organization. Harborne starts by introducing the basic principles of phytochemistry and the importance of secondary metabolites in plants. He emphasizes that while primary metabolites like carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids are essential for basic cellular functions, secondary metabolites—such as alkaloids, flavonoids, terpenoids, and phenolic compounds—are involved in more specialized roles, often contributing to a plant's ability to survive in its ecological niche. These compounds, many of which have been co-opted for human use in medicine, agriculture, and industry, are the central focus of the book. Harborne's introduction sets the stage for the reader to understand not only the analytical techniques but also the significance of these compounds in broader biological and ecological contexts.

The heart of Harborne's book lies in its detailed explanation of various laboratory techniques used to identify, isolate, and quantify phytochemicals. The methods are presented in a step-by-step fashion, making the text highly practical for researchers who may need to apply these techniques in their own work. One of the most valuable aspects of *Phytochemical Methods* is its coverage of both classical techniques and modern analytical methods, allowing readers to see how phytochemical analysis has evolved over time. This combination of old and new ensures that the book remains relevant across different research environments, from traditional wet laboratories to those equipped with advanced instrumentation.

The chapters are organized by the types of phytochemicals being analyzed, which makes the book user-friendly and easy to navigate. For example, one chapter is devoted to alkaloids, detailing methods for their extraction, identification, and quantification. Harborne explains how alkaloids can be isolated using solvent extraction and then analyzed using chromatographic techniques such as thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and gas chromatography (GC). The protocols are presented in a way that allows for flexibility depending on the equipment and resources available in the laboratory. In addition, Harborne discusses the use of various chemical reagents and tests that can help identify alkaloids based on their chemical properties, such as Dragendorff's reagent, which is commonly used to detect alkaloids in plant extracts.

Another strength of Harborne's book is its comprehensive treatment of chromatographic

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techniques, which are central to modern phytochemical analysis. Harborne provides detailed descriptions of the principles behind paper chromatography, thin-layer chromatography (TLC), gas chromatography (GC), and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), emphasizing how each technique can be applied to the study of different classes of plant metabolites. His discussion of TLC is particularly thorough, as this method has long been a staple in phytochemical research due to its simplicity and cost-effectiveness. Harborne not only explains how to perform TLC but also provides guidance on how to interpret the chromatograms and identify specific compounds based on their retention factors (R_f values). This practical focus makes the book especially useful for researchers who may be new to the technique or who need a refresher on the best practices for chromatographic analysis.

In addition to chromatographic methods, *Phytochemical Methods* also covers spectroscopic techniques, including ultraviolet (UV) spectroscopy, infrared (IR) spectroscopy, and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy. Harborne explains how these techniques can be used to elucidate the chemical structure of plant metabolites, providing insights into the molecular composition of these compounds. For instance, he discusses how UV spectroscopy can be employed to analyze flavonoids, a class of polyphenolic compounds that absorb UV light at specific wavelengths due to their conjugated ring systems. This level of detail makes the book a valuable resource not only for practical laboratory work but also for understanding the theoretical underpinnings of phytochemical analysis.

Harborne also addresses the challenges associated with the identification of secondary metabolites. Plant extracts often contain a complex mixture of compounds, and separating these into their individual components can be difficult. Harborne's book offers practical solutions to these challenges, such as combining different techniques (e.g., chromatography and spectroscopy) to improve the resolution and identification of specific metabolites. This integrated approach highlights one of the book's key messages: successful phytochemical analysis often requires the use of multiple complementary techniques. By combining methods such as TLC with UV-visible spectroscopy, for example, researchers can more accurately identify and quantify the phytochemicals present in a sample.

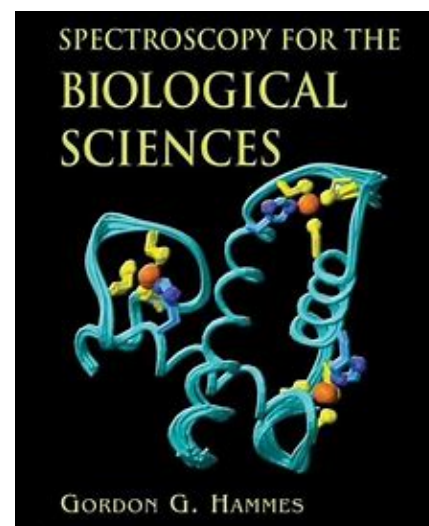
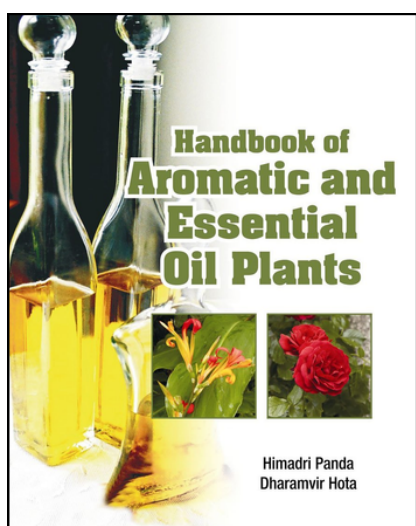
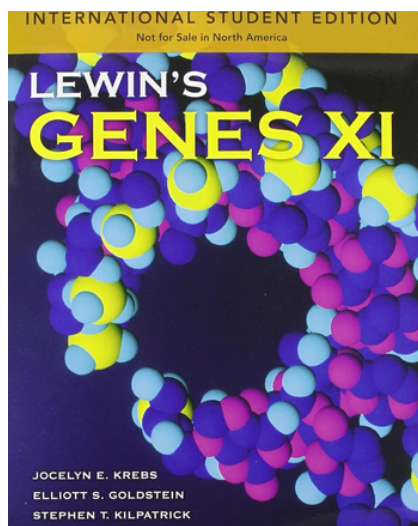
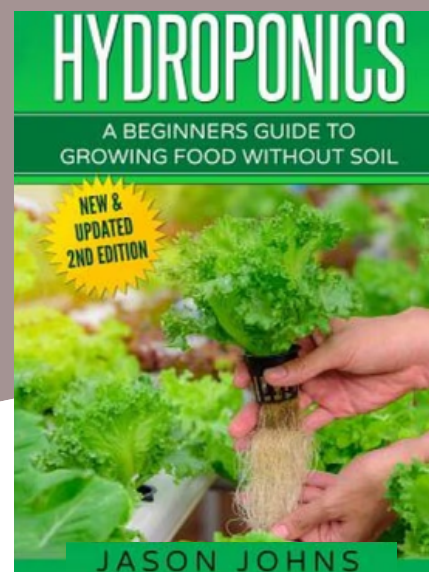
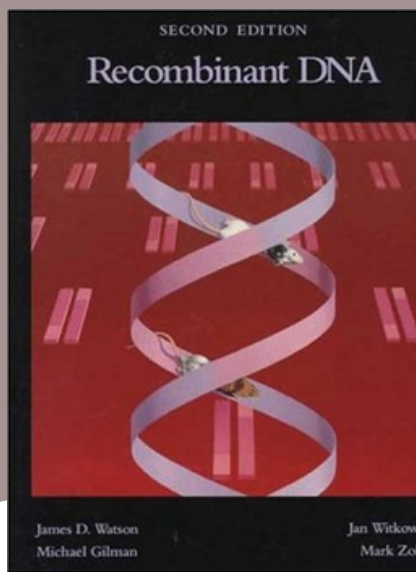
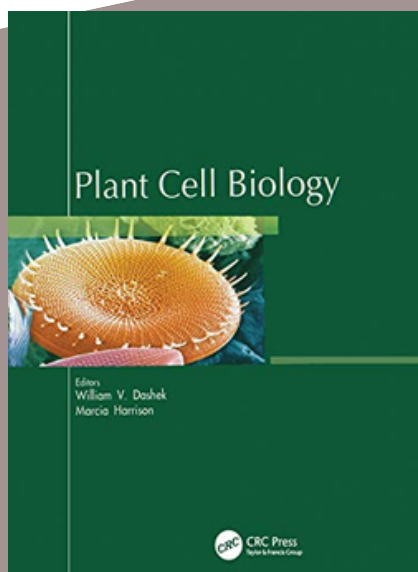
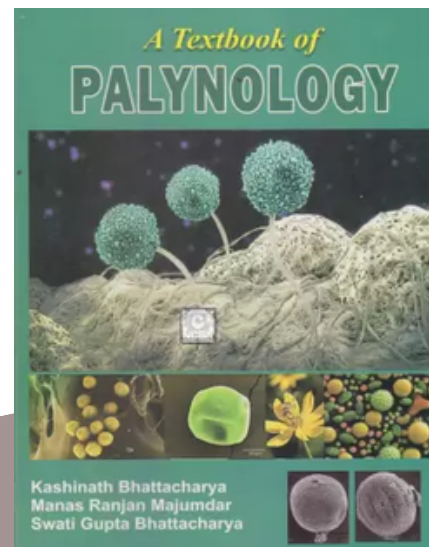
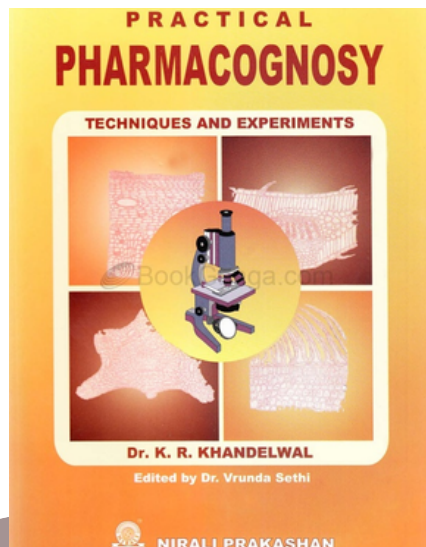
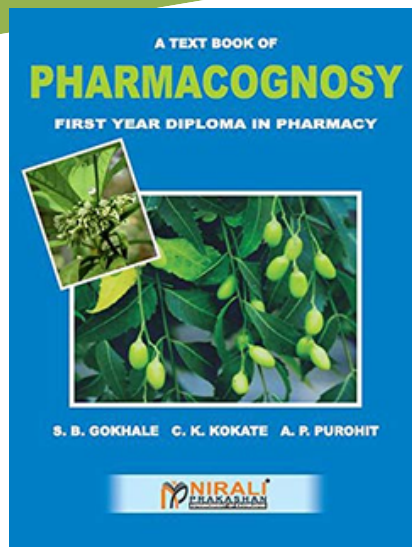
A particularly valuable aspect of *Phytochemical Methods* is Harborne's focus on bioassays, which are essential for determining the biological activity of plant extracts. Harborne provides detailed descriptions of various assays that can be used to test for antimicrobial, antioxidant, and enzyme inhibitory activity, among others. This focus on bioactivity is especially important in fields such as pharmacology and ethnobotany, where the goal is often to identify plant-derived compounds with potential therapeutic uses. Harborne's inclusion of bioassay methods makes the book not only a guide to chemical analysis but also a bridge between chemistry and biology, demonstrating how phytochemicals can be tested for their biological effects.

While *Phytochemical Methods* is undoubtedly a valuable resource, it is worth noting that the book's primary focus is on chemical analysis and less so on the ecological or evolutionary significance of phytochemicals. Although Harborne does briefly touch on the role of secondary metabolites in plant defense and interactions with other organisms, his primary concern is with the techniques themselves rather than the ecological context in which these compounds are produced. Readers looking for a more in-depth discussion of the ecological roles of phytochemicals may need to consult additional resources. That said, the book's narrow focus on analytical methods allows it to provide a level of detail that would not be possible in a more wide-ranging text.

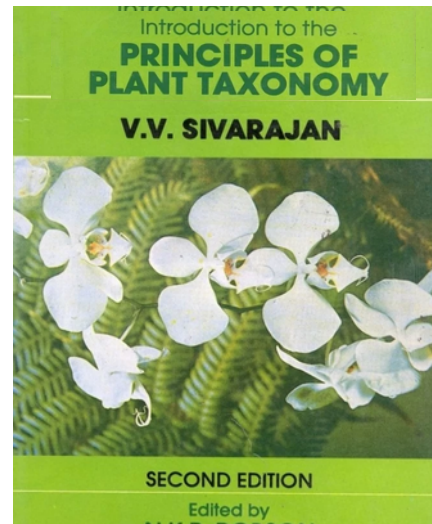
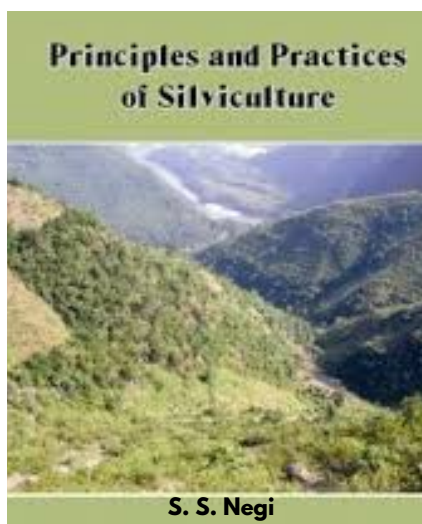
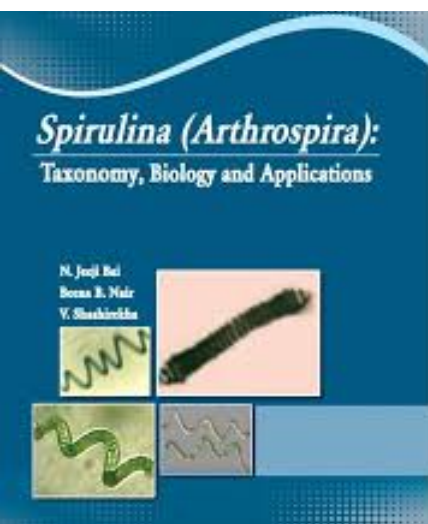
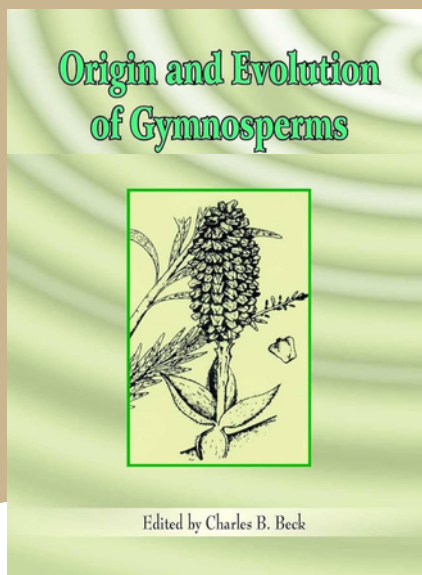
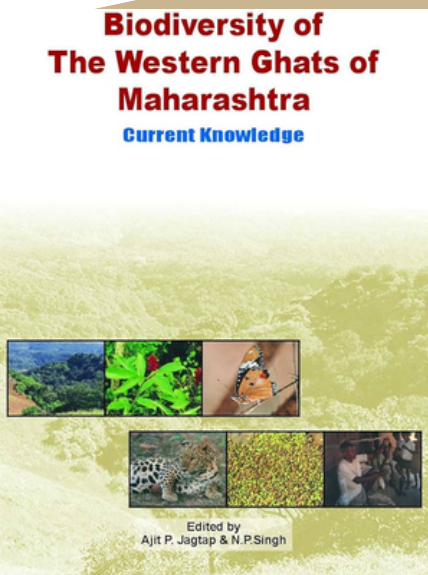
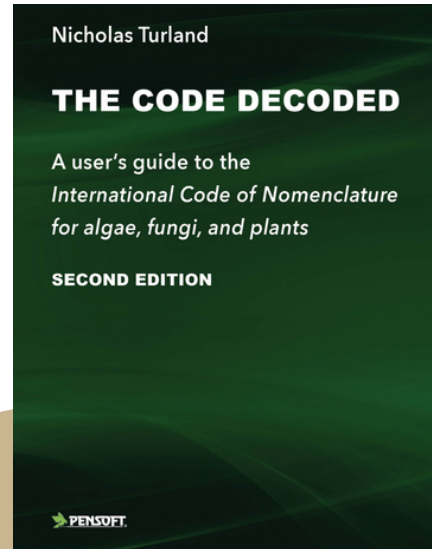
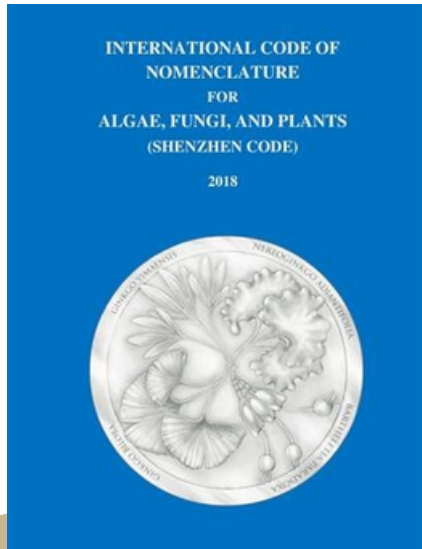
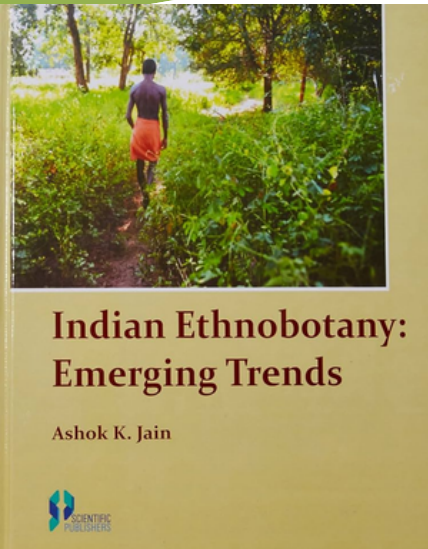
In terms of accessibility, *Phytochemical Methods* is written in a style that is clear and straightforward, making it accessible to a wide audience. While the book assumes some background knowledge in chemistry and plant biology, the explanations of techniques are detailed enough that even those new to the field will find it useful. Harborne includes numerous references to primary research articles, allowing readers to explore specific topics in greater depth if desired. This makes the book not only a practical guide but also a starting point for further exploration into the literature on plant secondary metabolites.

J.B. Harborne's *Phytochemical Methods* remains a definitive guide to the chemical analysis of plant secondary metabolites. Its comprehensive coverage of both classical and modern analytical techniques makes it an invaluable resource for researchers in plant science, pharmacology, and natural product chemistry. By providing step-by-step protocols for the extraction, identification, and quantification of phytochemicals, Harborne equips readers with the tools necessary to conduct rigorous and effective research. While the book's focus is primarily on laboratory techniques, it also provides a solid foundation for understanding the chemical diversity of plants and the significance of secondary metabolites. For anyone involved in the study of plant chemistry, *Phytochemical Methods* is an essential reference that will continue to be a key resource for years to come.

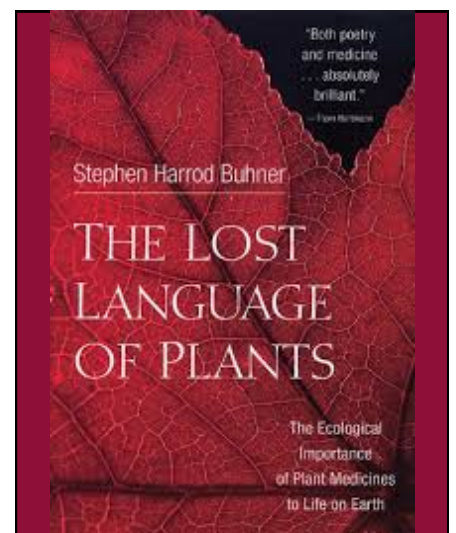
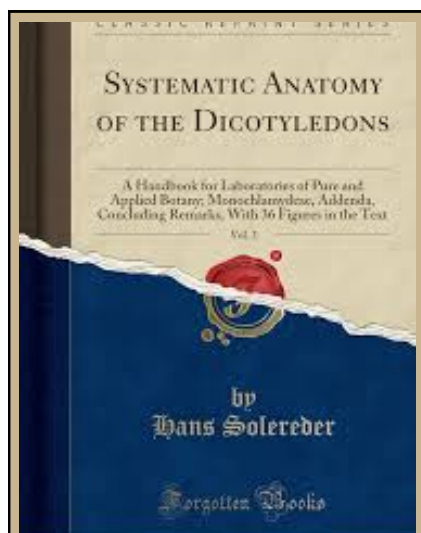
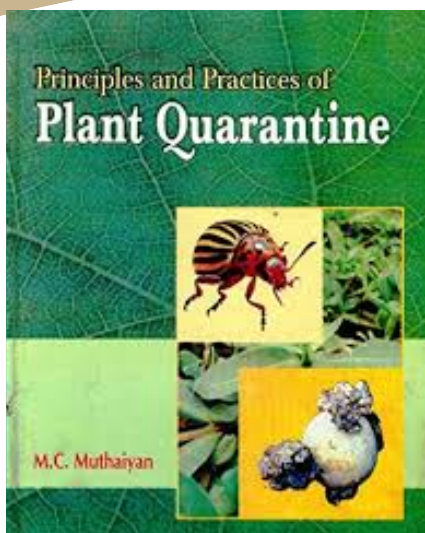
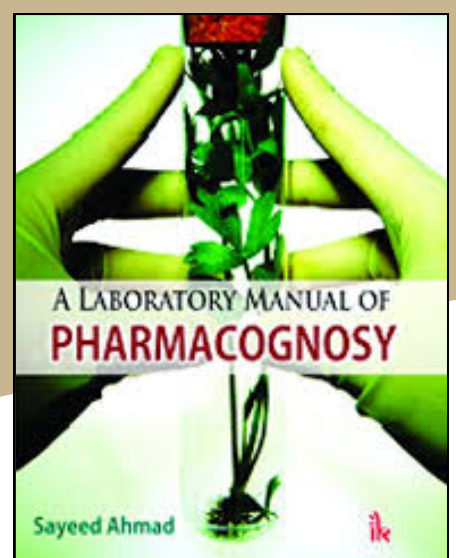
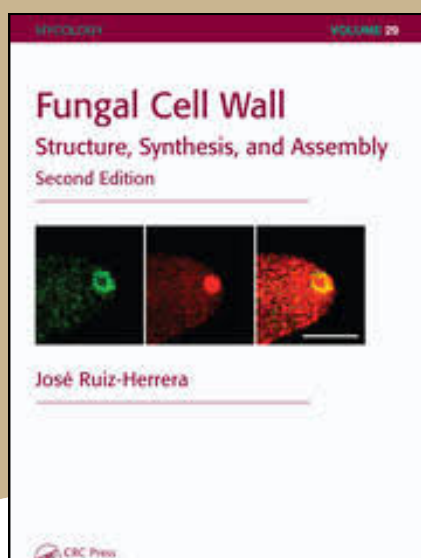
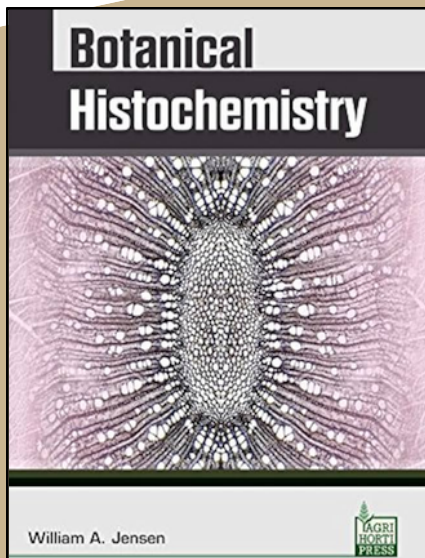
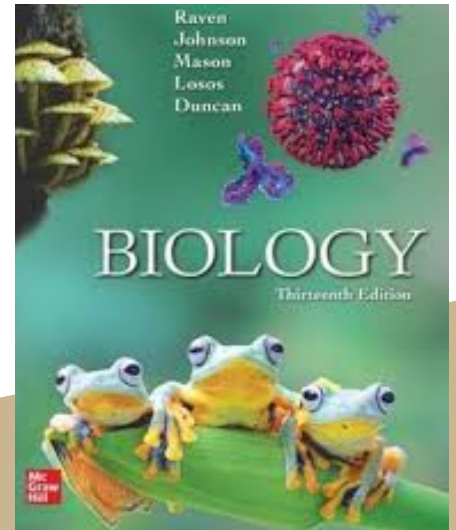
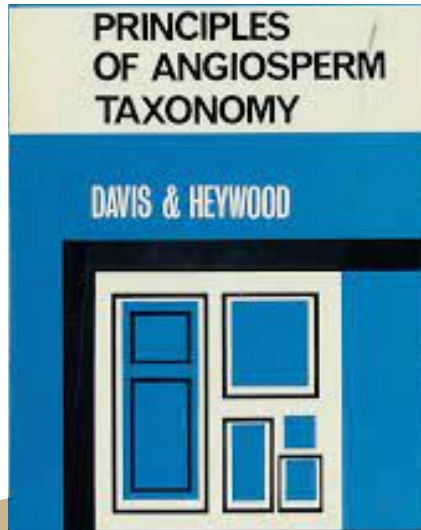
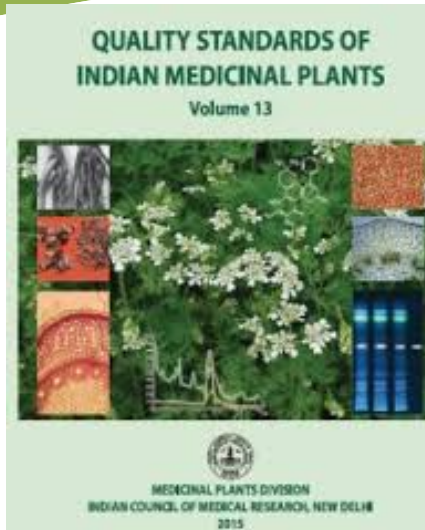
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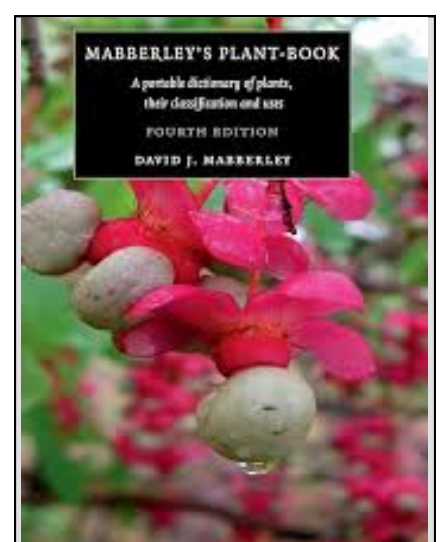
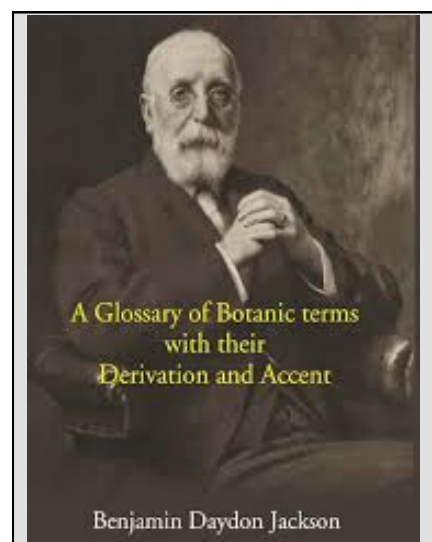
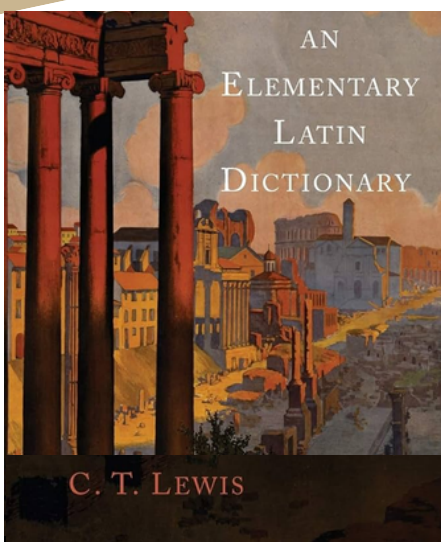
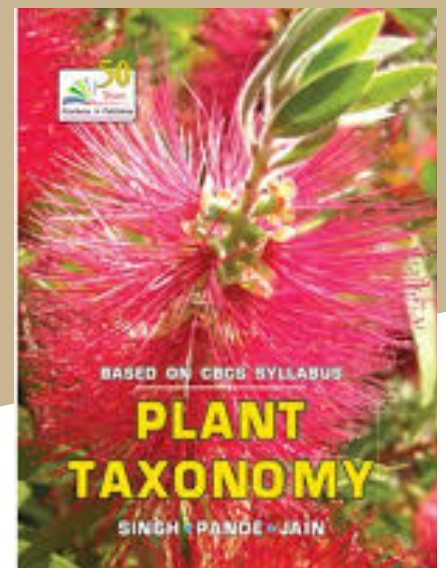
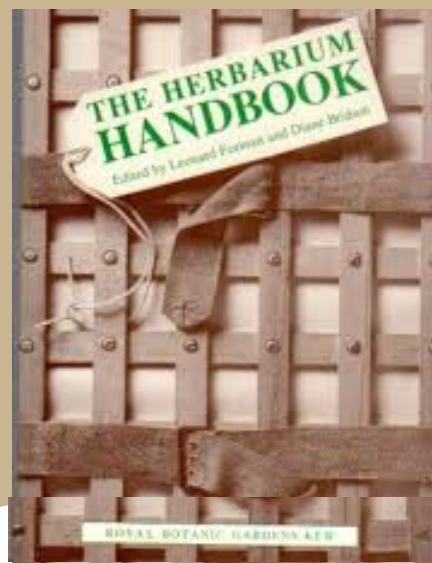
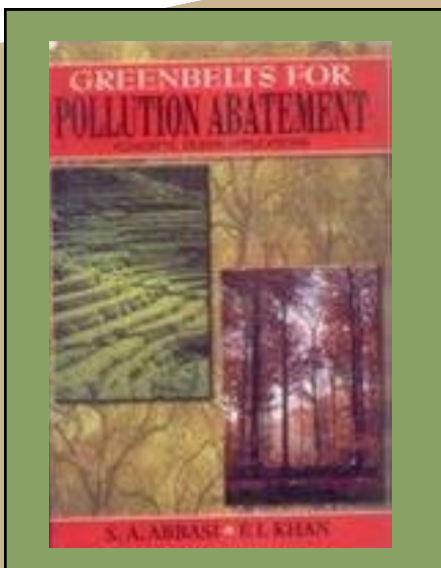
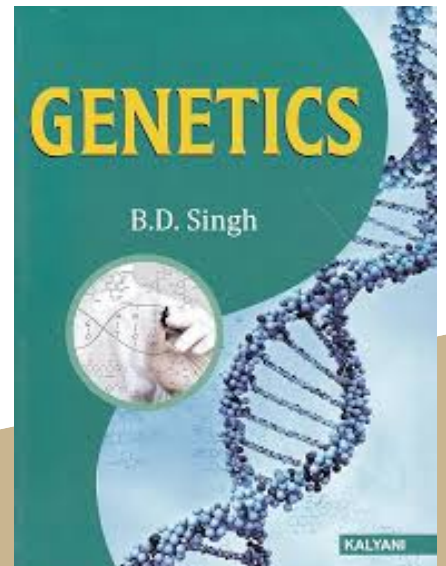
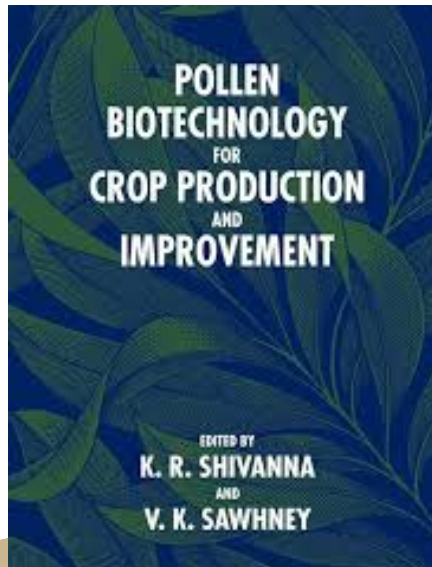
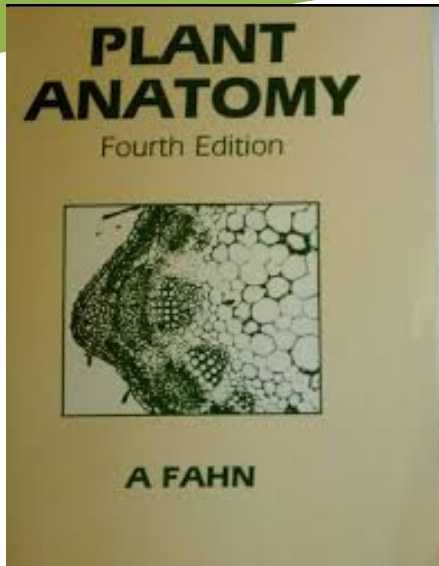
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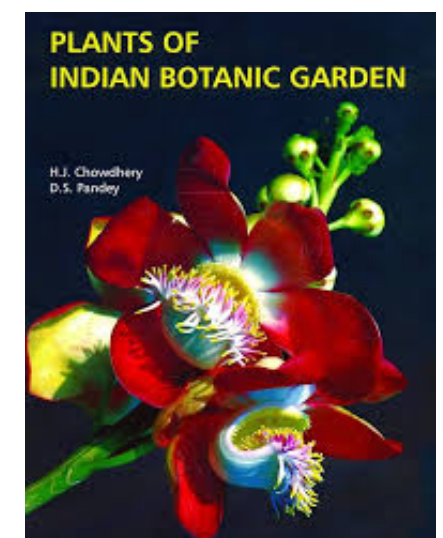
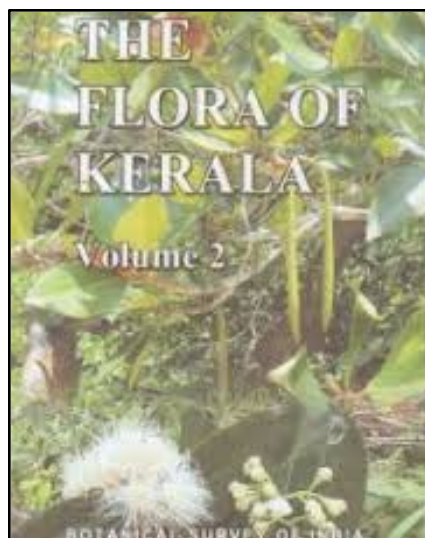
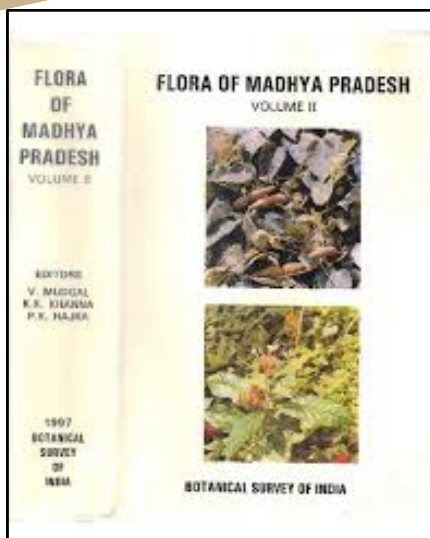
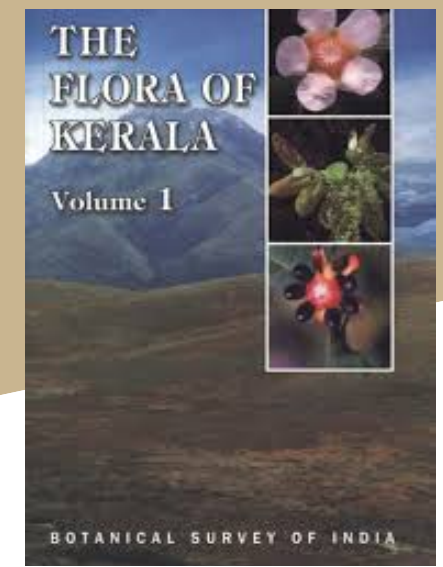
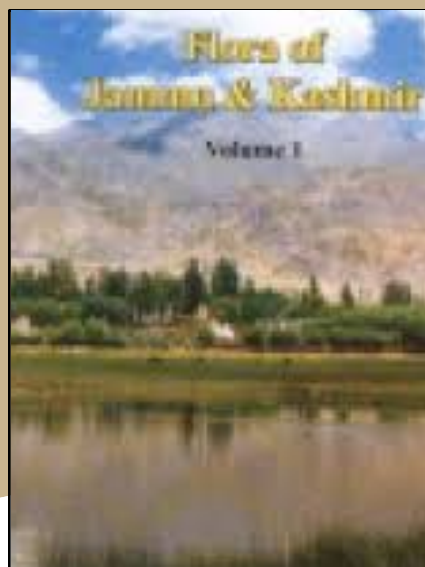
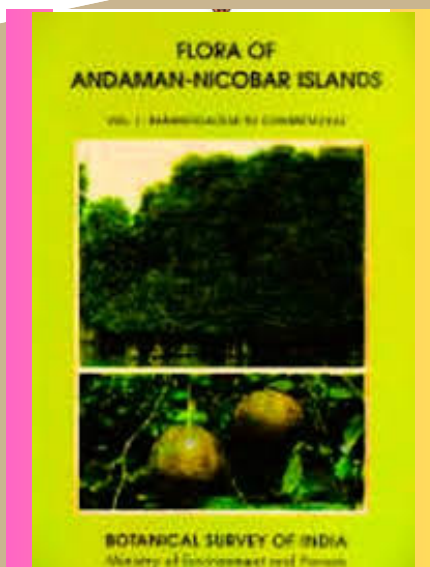
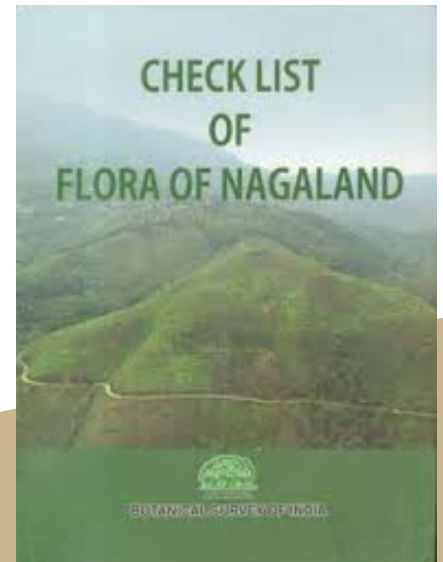
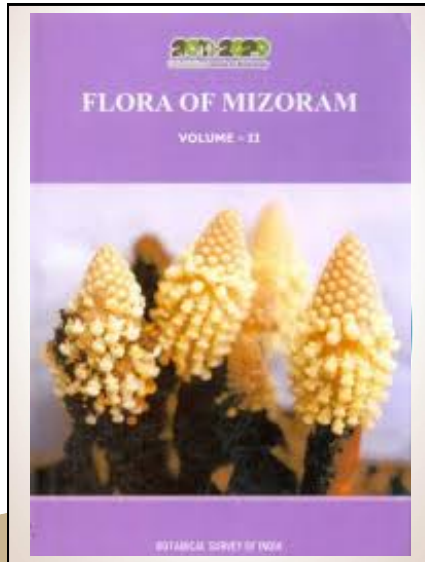
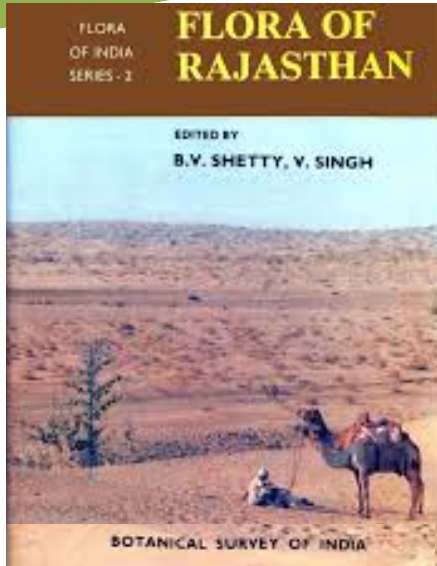
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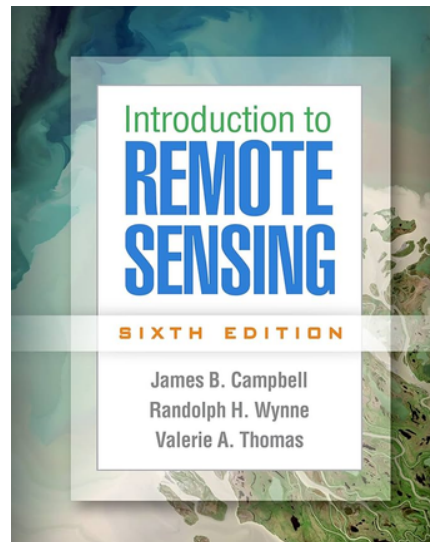
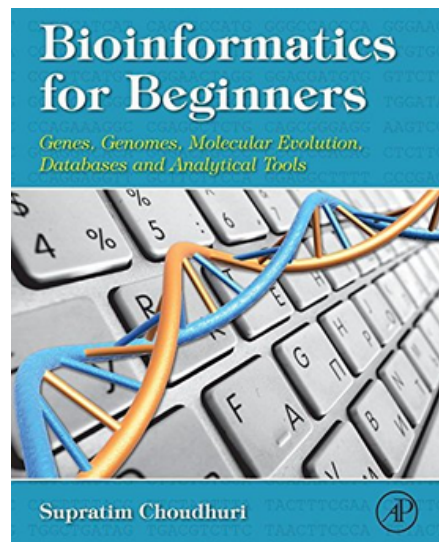
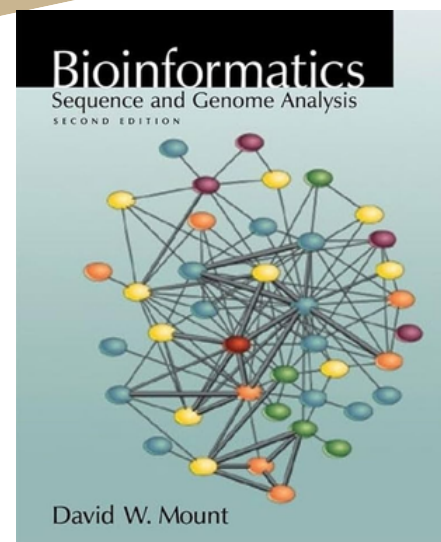
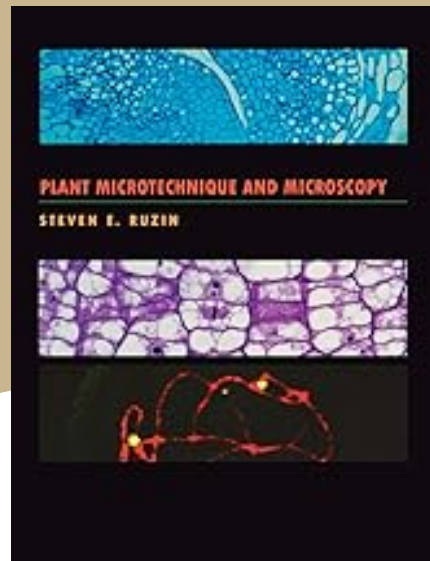
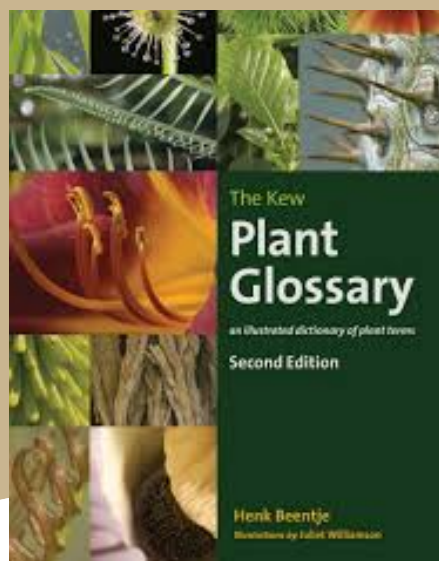
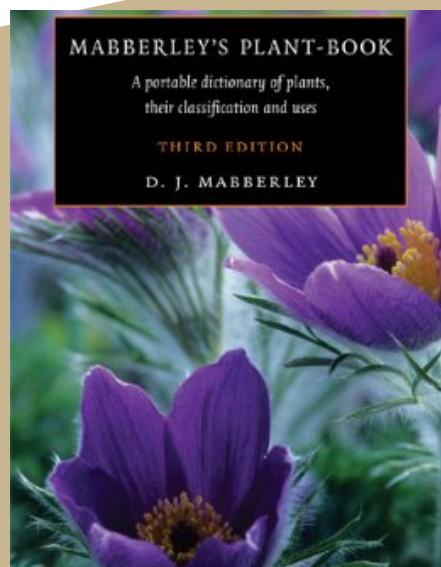
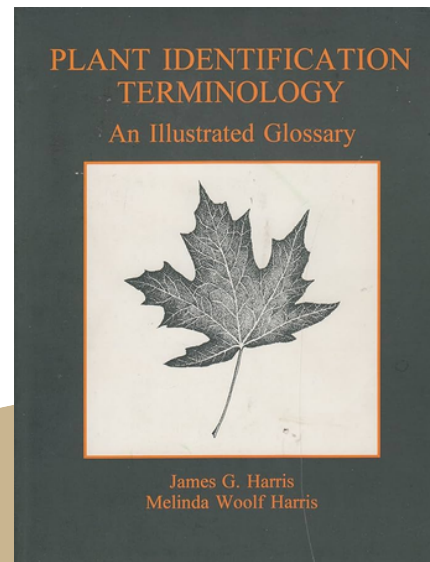
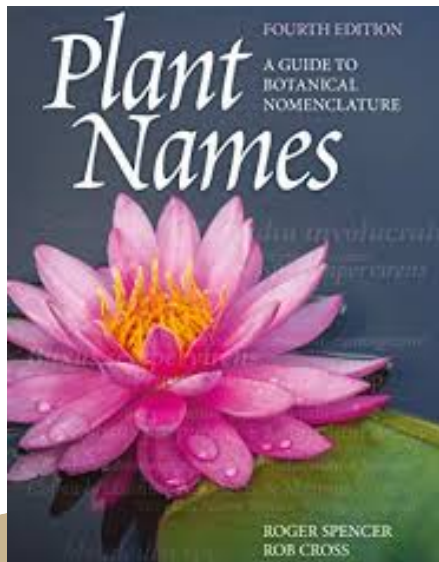
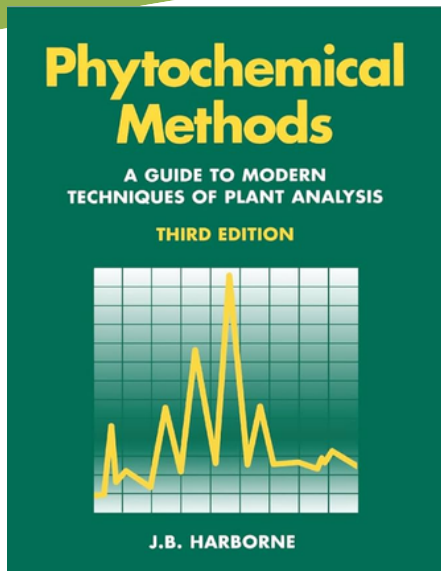
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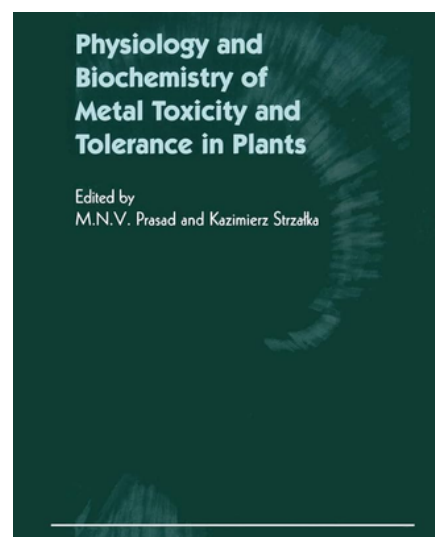
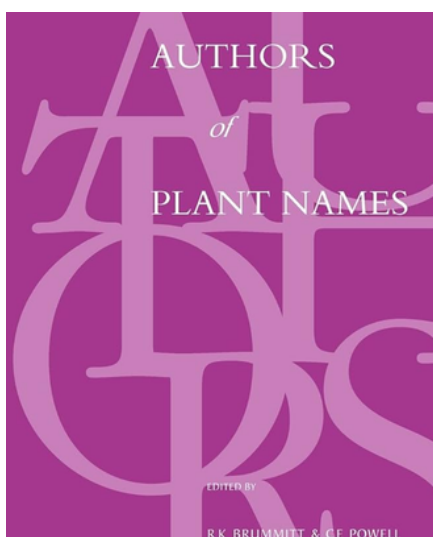
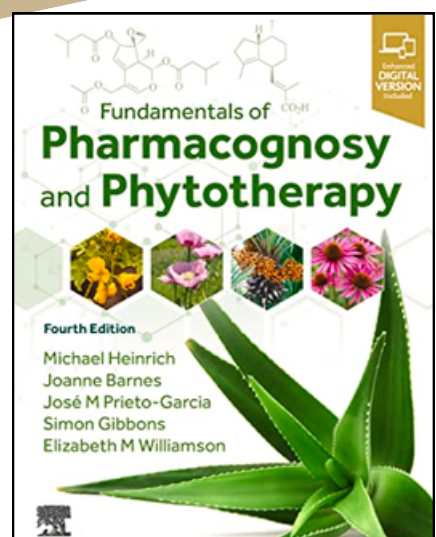
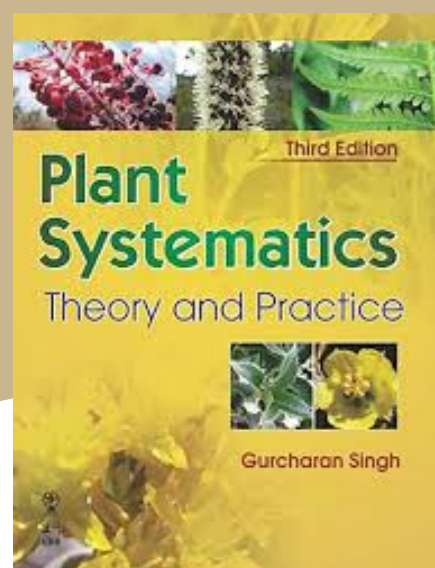
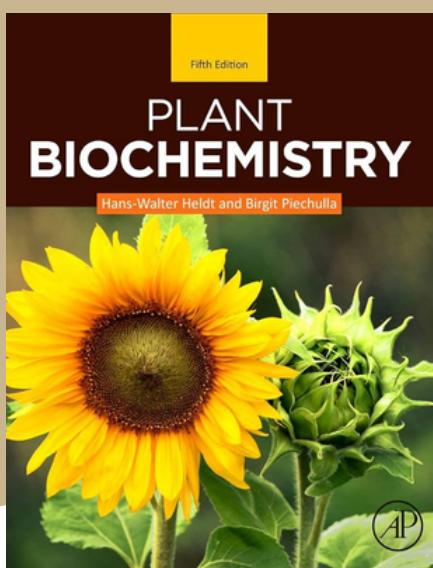
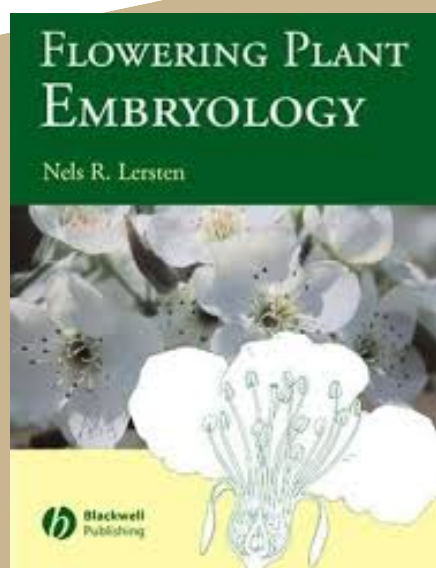
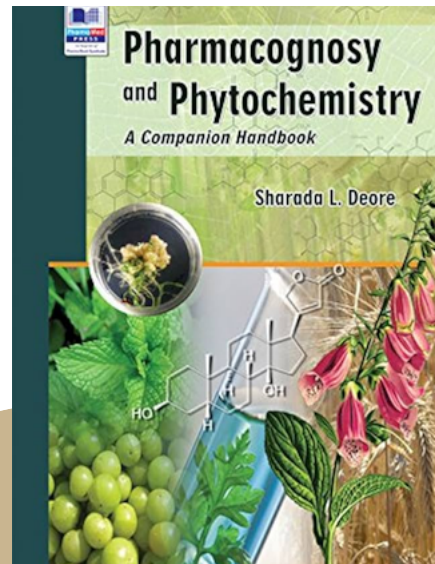
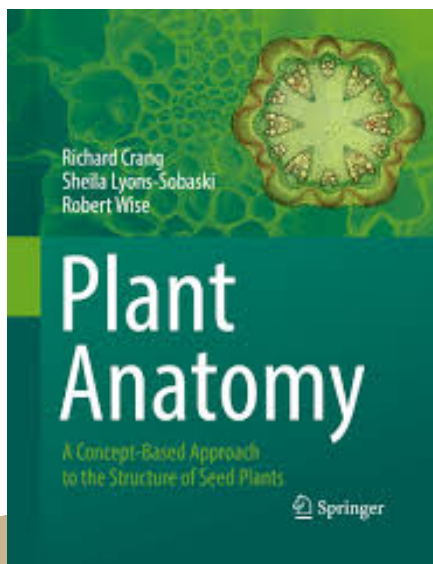
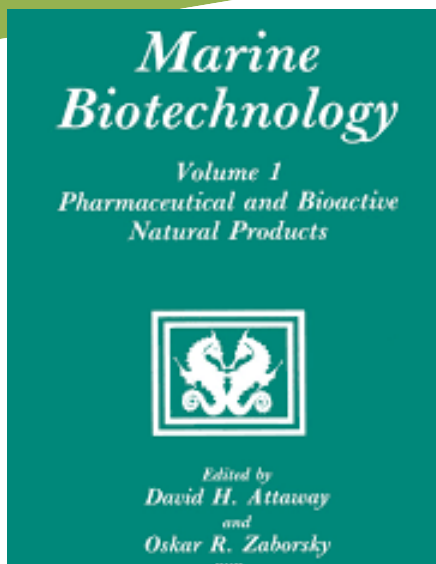
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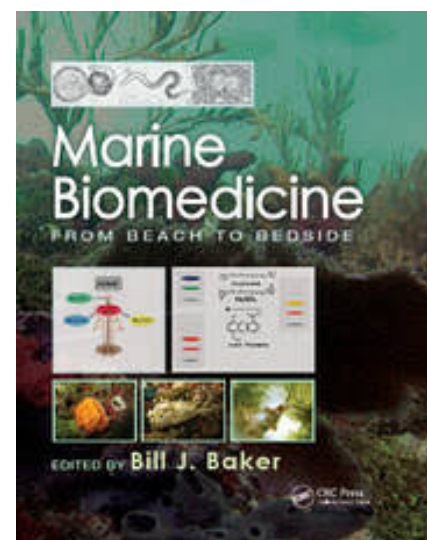
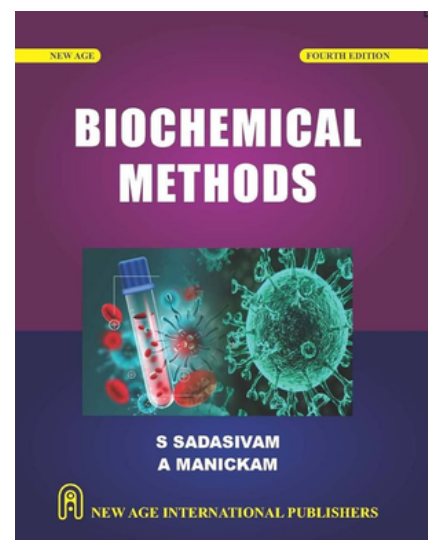
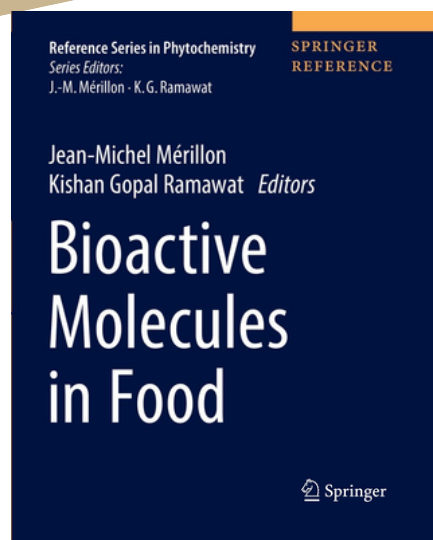
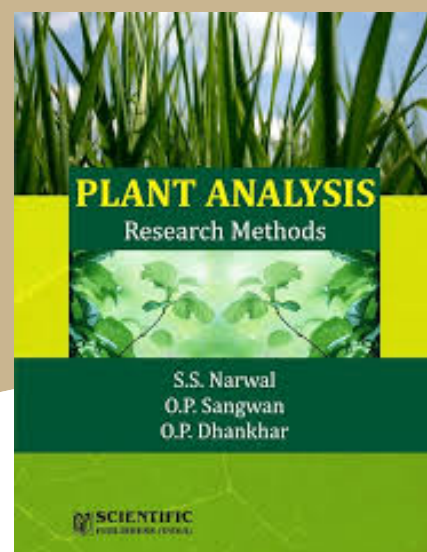
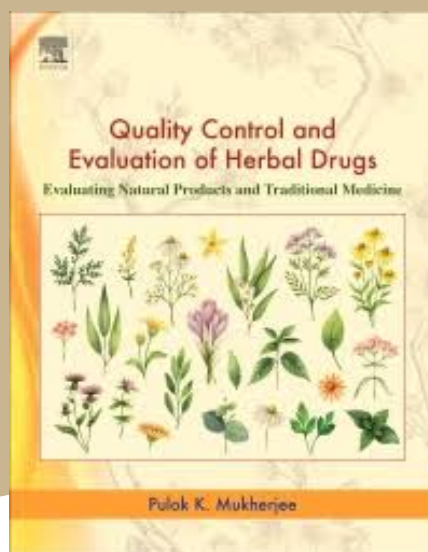
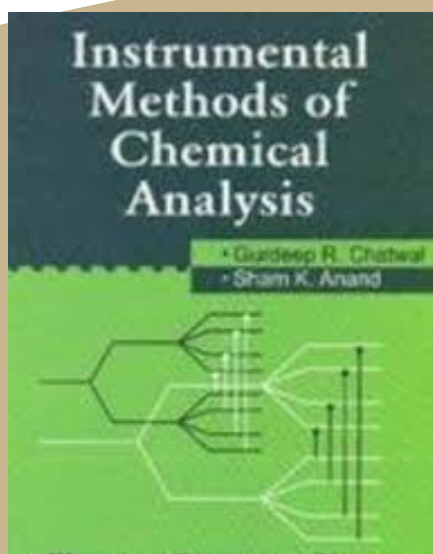
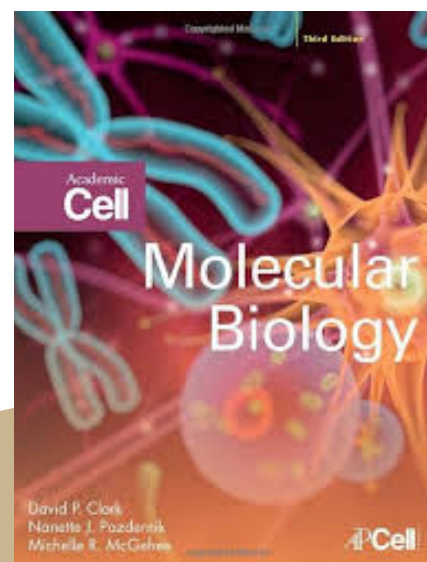
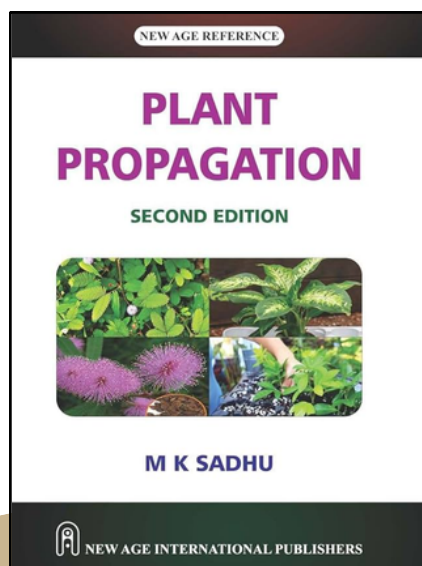
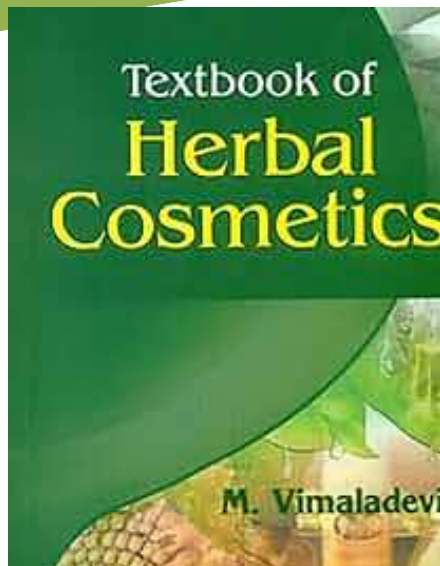
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ISSN: 0931-1890

Published from: 1997- Present

Subject Coverage: Biology, Botany, Forests And Forestry





सुनहरा भविष्य बनाने के लिए अनिवार्य है; किताबों से मित्रता करना ।

ताकत का नया स्रोत कुछ लोगों के हाथ में धन होना नहीं है, बल्कि कई लोगों के हाथ में पुस्तकों का होना है।

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