

I. Roth H. Lindorf

South American Medicinal Plants

Botany, Remedial Properties
and General Use

With 313 Figures and 9 Tables



Springer

Contents

PART I

Introduction to South American Medical Plants

Introduction	3
Phytochemicals and their curative properties.....	3
Bioactive substances – mainly secondary plant compounds – in food.....	11
Therapy	14
Definition of the term ‘drug’.....	14
Toxicity.....	15
Allergy	16
How can useful and medicinal plants be found?	16
Search for active substances	18
International agreements.....	19
Isolation and standardization of phytopharmaca.....	19
Historical considerations.....	20
Central and South America.....	21
Ethnobotany in Venezuela.....	21
South American Plants and their uses.....	22
Identification of medicinal and economically useful plants.....	27
Preparation of drugs	30
Methods of investigation	32

Special plant parts and their uses	32
Bark and cork.....	32
Utilization	35
Medicinal plants of selected regions	41
Venezuela.....	41
Northern Amazonas.....	43
Cuyagua and Cata (Aragua)	44
Yutajé	45
Trujillo	49
Tachira	49
Paria peninsula.....	53
Plants used by Indian tribes.....	60
Special contents.....	61
Alkaloids	61
Aromatic plants and perfumes.....	62
Mucilage and gum	64
Natural dyes.....	64
Tanning substances and leather tanning....	66
Specific healing properties of plants	67
Material and methods	67
Plant families which supply medicinal and economically useful species.....	68

PART II

Plant families

Plant families.....	71
Epilog	467
Bibliography	468
Index.....	481