

are among the countries with included species. There are full top and side views of adults, but transforming juveniles, tadpoles and eggs and particular features such as eyes or skin are also included.

Marent emphasises in his introduction that there are some 6300 recognized species of amphibians, of which about 2000 are currently threatened with extinction due to habitat loss through human use expansion, exacerbated by co-increasing pollution, disease, collection for food or pets, and climate change. The text is sidebar photo captions inset throughout the book. Topics covered are identity (habitats, tree frogs, glass frogs, poison dart frogs, species variation: strawberry poison dart frogs, mantellas, other frogs, toads, newts and salamanders), body form (eyes, ears, nostrils, feet and legs, skin), survival (feeding, methods of movement, night versus day, camouflage, using poisons, last line of defense, unwanted competition) and reproduction (life

cycle, attracting mates, mating, sexual differences, spawn, tadpoles, froglets, newt reproduction).

The text concludes with a three-page listing of a conventional division into amphibian families, with common name, distribution, size (number of species) and brief description. Finally, there is a comprehensive index of both common and scientific names and topics, and brief acknowledgments.

This is a beautiful and superbly produced book full of interesting facts which bring the reader closer to an appreciation of the uniqueness and colourfulness of living amphibians more quickly than any field guide or textbook on them, though the latter have vastly more detail.

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Rattlers, Peepers & Snappers

By Vince Franke and Jim Andrews. 2008. Peregrine Productions LLC at www.rpsdvd.com. DVD. 24.95 USD,

Subtitled "The first complete DVD guide to all the amphibians and reptiles that breed in New England", one disc covers 52 species in these groups dynamically and with immediacy not possible in a static book format. Included are the majority of the species that occur in eastern Canada and it is relevant for herpetologists and naturalists over all of northeastern North America.

It is an ideal learning or teaching tool. The subject is covered effectively and in depth in some three hours and includes, in individual sections, identification and life history of each species through diagnosis by live-action outings to view habitat and behaviour with discussion by a varied lot of researchers. As well there are fact sheets, quizzes, "resource pages" and the calls of each frog species. The amphibian program covers varied topics: spring migration, road crossings, vernal pools, stream salamanders, finding frogs, and Wood Frog research while the reptile program includes, snakes and skinks, Box Turtle research. Timber Rattlesnakes, worm snakes, tracking Racers, Copperheads, fall migration, turtle tunnels, and nesting turtles.

For this production Jim Andrews is joined by Vince Franke of Peregrine Productions whose superb field photography day or night, terrestrial or aquatic, is a

perfect companion for the commentaries by Andrews and others. Andrews has long established himself as Vermont's premier promoter of herpetology and spear-headed *The Atlas of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Vermont December, 2001* by James S. Andrews and 1400 dedicated volunteers and organizations (see book review *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 116(4): 666-667).

The accuracy and immediacy of the new DVD is a model for any future efforts elsewhere. It promotes a greater understanding of these creatures, the immediate need and means for their effective conservation, and for the accurate recording of further observations to augment our understanding of their distribution and behaviour. Viewed in total or as short topical segments (individually readily accessible from the menu), the visual quality, the enthusiasm for the subject portrayed, and the accuracy and scope of the material presented are truly outstanding. From the casual to the serious, beginner to veteran naturalist, every viewer can gain from this production a greater understanding of the diversity and the conservation imperative of these fascinating animals and of the people who are their dedicated observers.

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BOTANY

Aromatic Plants in China

By Wang Yumei. 2008. Science Press, Beijing, China. 1069 pages, 180.00 CNY.

Aromatic plants are plants whose vegetative or reproductive organs are able to secrete or accumulate essen-

tial oil, volatile aromatic oil, or spice substances or volatilization-difficult balata used as the raw materials for daily life or industrial production. The majority of aromatic plants are seed plants. Volatile aromatic sub-

stances are secondary products generated through a series of enzymatic reactions in some aromatic plants. These substances may function to prevent or repel invasions of pathogens or pests, or to lure or attract pollination insects. The substances are usually secreted by glands, and exist in at least one of the organs, such as roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds. In plants, most of them are usually in free states, but some are combined with sugar, forming glycosides.

Aromatic plants usually contain four ingredients, aromatic, medicinal, nutrient and pigment. In addition, they sometimes also contain antioxidants and anti-bacterial ingredients, which not only increase their value, but also widen the area of use. They can be used as aromatic plants, medicinal herbs, food, ornamentals, or even as natural anti-bacterial or anti-corrosion agents or anti-oxidants.

In ancient times, Egyptians, Chinese, Mesopotamians, Greeks and Romans had begun to use aromatic plants for sterilization, anti-corrosion, medical care, health care, beauty and preservation of body, and so on. From the 13th century, distillation began to be the method used to extract oil from aromatic plants. Until the 16th century, Europeans successfully extracted essential oils, such as turpentine, rosemary oil, and lavender oil from the aromatic plants. Since the 19th century, with the development of science and technology, the exploration and use of the aromatic plants have rapidly expanded. So far, the world has discovered nearly 100 families, 200 genera, and more than 3600 species of aromatic plants, most of which are distributed in the tropical and subtropical regions. By the early 1980s, China had discovered more than 350 species of aromatic plants, among which about 150 species have been commonly used in the production of spices. The geographical distribution areas of the aromatic plants in China are over virtually all of the country. Some provinces and autonomous regions have become important bases for cultivation of aromatic plants.

Obviously, effective exploitation, utilization and protection of the aromatic plant resources need to recog-

nize the background information, summarize the present knowledge and carry out further researches in detail and in depth. The timely publication of the book *Aromatic Plants in China* meets such demand in at least some of these aspects. The book is a systematic and comprehensive monograph of the aromatic plant resources and their present status in China. The book was written based on countrywide data from an investigation on the aromatic plant resources, and the large amount of literature on the aromatic plants in China and abroad. The book is divided into two major parts, general introduction and special issues. The 632 color pictures are particularly helpful for readers to recognize and identify the aromatic plant species. In the first part, the basic knowledge of the aromatic plants, is introduced in categories of aromatic plants, their distributions, productions, main ingredients, functions, extraction, processing and uses, etc. In the second, the characteristics of each family, genus and species of the thousands of aromatic plants is given in detail, with Latin name, alias, English name, origin, distribution, biological characteristics, main points of cultivation techniques, main ingredients of essential oils, and the present situation of usage. At the end of the book, the strategies for the further exploitation, use and protection of the wild aromatic plant resources in China were put forward.

The book is suitable for the persons who engage in biology, agronomy, forestry, horticulture, plant chemistry, and other related scientific fields. Those who carry out investigation, cultivation, identification, research, processing, marketing, or use of the aromatic plants, will find it particularly useful. It will be valued by any persons who are interested in the aromatic plants.

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[Book Review Editor's note. Aweto is a Maori name for Dong Chong Tsia Tsiao (winter caterpillar summer grass). This is the caterpillar of a moth *Hepialus armoricanus* (Lepidoptera: Hepialidae) infected with an obligate fungus *Cordyceps sinensis* (Clavicipitales, Ascomycotina). The caterpillar lives underground in alpine grasslands in Tibet and the Himalayas for five years where it is attacked while feeding on roots. The fungus invades, killing and mummifying the larvae near the tops of their burrows. The 5-15 cm fruiting body emerges from the ground in spring from the forehead of the caterpillar, like "summer grass." The medicinal agent is likely Cordycepin, or 3-deoxyadenosine. Most aweto sold as pills in the west are probably fake or nearly so.]

Aweto in China

By Northwest Plateau Institute of Biology, CAS and Institute of Drug Quarantine of Qinghai Province, 2008, Shaanxi Science and Technology Publishing House, 744 pages, Price: 120 CNY.

Aweto is the complex of the stroma of *Cordyceps sinensis* parasitizing the larva of *Hepialus armoricanus* living through the winter. As a special organism, aweto is characterized by a worm in winter and a grass in sum-

mer, which is also the origin of its Chinese name. At present in the world, there are more than 400 species of fungi in the genus of *Cordyceps* parasitizing the larvae of insects, spiders and other organisms forming the carposporophyte, among which there are 68 species in China. In China, aweto resource is distributed in Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and other areas.

Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist 126(4)

In response to the review of *Contributions to the History of Herpetology*. CFN 126(3): 344-345, the book's editor Kraig Adler pointed out (personal communication to FRC 12 May 2013): "Only one small correction. Mrs. Martof used a kitchen knife, not a gun. She told the police she slipped while cutting some pizza. But Bernie was stabbed up under his rib cage several times!"

Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist

It has come to our attention that sections of many of the book reviews by Li Dezhi and Qin Aili were copied from sources without attribution. The journal and the authors apologize for this oversight.