

Springer

1st
edition1st ed. 2021, XIV, 439 p.
152 illus., 148 illus. in color.**Printed book**

Hardcover

Printed book

Hardcover

ISBN 978-3-030-55493-4

£ 129,99 | CHF 177,00 | 149,99 € |
164,99 € (A) | 160,49 € (D)

Available

Discount group

Science (SC)

Product category

Contributed volume

Series

Ethnobiology

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ISBN 978-3-030-55495-8

Life Sciences : Plant Systematics / Taxonomy / Biogeography

Abbasi, Arshad Mehmood, Bussmann, Rainer W. (Eds.)

Ethnobiology of Mountain Communities in Asia

- **First comprehensive book on the ethnobotany of the mountainous regions of Asia**
- **Lavishly illustrated with over 100 illustrations, most in full color**
- **Written by leading experts from these unique areas in Asia**

Natural resources and associated biological diversity provide the basis of livelihood for human population, particularly in the rural areas and mountain regions across the globe. Asia is home to the world's highest mountain regions including the Himalayas, Karakorum and Hindukush. These regions are renowned around the globe because of their unique beauty, climate, and biocultural diversity. Because of geoclimatic conditions, the mountains of Asia are medicinal and food plant diversity hot spots. The indigenous communities residing in the valleys of these mountains have their own culture and traditions, and have a long history of interaction with the surrounding plant diversity. Local inhabitants of these mountains areas possess significant traditional knowledge of plant species used as food, medicine, and for cultural purposes. So far, many workers have reported traditional uses of plant species from different regions of Asia including some mountain areas; however, there is not one inclusive document on the ethnobotany of mountains in Asia. This book provides a comprehensive overview on ethnoecological knowledge and cross cultural variation in the application of plant species among various communities residing in the mountains of Asia; cross cultural variation in traditional uses of plant species by the mountain communities; high value medicinal and food plant species; and threats and conservation status of plant species and traditional knowledge. This book should be useful to researchers of biodiversity and conservation, ethnobiologists, ethnoecologists, naturalists, phytochemists, pharmacists, policy makers, and all who have a devotion to nature.

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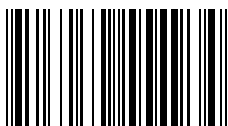
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