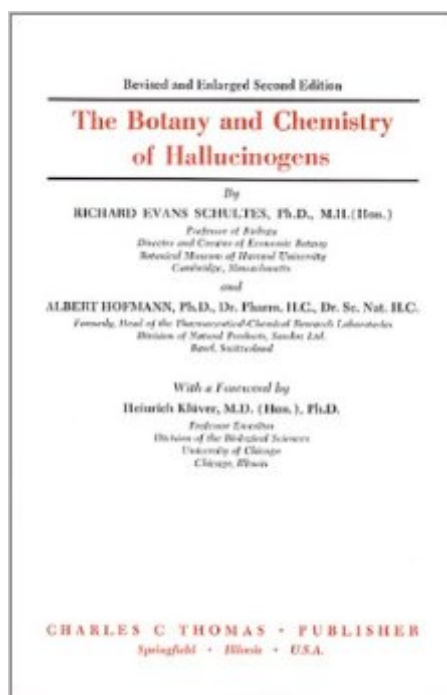


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The Botany And Chemistry Of Hallucinogens



Synopsis

By Richard Evans Schultes, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Albert Hofmann, Basel, Switzerland. With Forewords by I. Newton Kugelmass and Henrich Kluver. The Second Edition of this book encompasses all of the advances that have been made in this field since publication of the original text. Newly discovered hallucinogenic plants have been incorporated into the discussions along with new information on some well-known drugs. The authors continue to focus on the botany and chemistry of hallucinogens, although they also consider ethnobotanical, historical, pharmacological and psychological aspects. Initial chapters delineate definition, botanical distribution, and structural types of hallucinogenic plants. Plants of known, possible and dubious hallucinogenic potential are then covered in separate sections. The bibliography for this new edition has been enlarged to accommodate all of the recent activity in botanical and chemical investigation of psychoactive plants. Readers will also appreciate the excellent illustrations that accompany the text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a very extensive source of information about plant hallucinogens. It gives historical backgrounds on the plants used as hallucinogens. It also gives very extensive information about the molecules that are responsible for their hallucinogenic activity. It covers the molecular structures and their abundance in the plant sources. There is also information about how the plants are used as ethnobotanicals. I would suggest obtaining this book to anyone interested in ethnobotanicals.

Weighing in at just over 400 pages, this seminal work by Drs. Schultes and Hofmann is the definitive guide to hallucinogenic plant compounds. Detailed information is included about plant classification, chemical properties, and historical background concerning use. Although written in an academic tone, a book like this can't help but be interesting. Nevertheless, due to its overwhelming amount of information (and the expense and difficulty required to actually obtain a copy), it's probably best left to the most obsessed and/or diligent of psychonauts. For a less technical and more layman-friendly read, try Schultes/Hofmann's other book, *Plants of the Gods*.

This is a great book, a useful source to find the basics to get a broad idea about the field. This book was written by two scientists who were celebrities each in their own right, Richard Evans Schultes and Albert Hoffman; which is an unusual thing to say about a scientist, but nevertheless true. My copy was printed in 1980. We could use an updated version of this book but so far as I know, that does not exist. Any way it goes, this book is a classic and it is extremely interesting.

This book is an excellent source of information on the chemistry behind ethnobotanicals. It covers a vast amount of material and the lengthy reference section is worth the trouble of locating this book.

Written by the greats. Easy to read. Somewhat dated, but a seminal book.

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