

REVIEW

E. BOER & A. B. ELLA (eds.): **Plant Resources of South-East Asia. 18. Plants producing exudates.** Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, 2000. 189 pp., illus. ISBN 90-5782-072-2. Price: NLG 125 (hard cover). [A paperback edition will be available in May 2003. For developing countries a much cheaper paperback edition (ISBN 979-8316-40-1) will be available in May 2001 from the PROSEA Network Office, P.O. Box 332, Bogor 16122, Indonesia.]

The commodity group Exudates (defined as the fluids that ooze out of a wound of a tree) is divided into three groups of substances: Resins, Latex, and Gums. Resins, usually mixes of terpenes, are primarily used in paints and varnishes. Latex, of which the most important is rubber, is used in car tyres, engineering components and consumers goods, including chewing gum. The main components of latex are polyisoprenes and resins. Vegetable gums consist of mixtures of polysaccharides and are often used in cosmetics, soaps, and in food products as stabiliser or emulsifier. For the field botanist exudate is a useful character. However, this use is not mentioned in the PROSEA volume.

The introduction, where the properties of the exudates are discussed, is followed by the treatment of genera and species. Major exudate-producing species are treated in full (Chapter 2), minor species only briefly (Chapter 3), while Chapter 4 lists species with other primary uses. References, a glossary, and an index complete the volume.

The book is beautifully produced along the well-known lines of PROSEA.

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