



G.H. Schmelzer, A. Gurib-Fakim (eds). 2013. *Medicinal Plants 2*, Plant Resources of Tropical Africa 11, 2, PROTA Foundation / CTA, Wageningen, The Netherlands. <http://www.earthprint.com>. English edition: USD 46, 384 pp., ISBN 978-92-9081-520-4 (book only), ISBN 978-92-9081-521-1 (book + CD-ROM), French edition: *Plantes médicinales 2*, USD 46, ISBN 978-92-9081-522-8 (book), ISBN 978-92-9081-523-5 (book + CD-ROM).

*Medicinal plants 2*, published both as book and CD-ROM, is the second of PROTAs four volumes describing the wild and sometimes cultivated plant species of tropical Africa used in traditional medicine. The first volume, PROTA 11 (1), described 894 plants primarily used for traditional medicine. This volume describes another 409 medicinal species, belonging to the botanical families *Asclepidaceae* (the remaining *Apocynaceae* figured in the first volume), *Combretaceae*, *Convolvulaceae*, *Phytenaceae* and *Rutaceae*, and the *Mimosoid* species *Dichrostachys cinerea*. The planned volume 11 (3) will deal with the remaining species primarily used as medicinal plants (including the *Mimosaceae*), while the last volume in this series 11 (4) will treat plants primarily used for other purposes, but with secondary uses as medicine.

Compiled by a large number of contributors, including many from African countries, this publication is very useful for anyone working with or interested in African herbal medicine. The book includes detailed botanical descriptions of 146 medicinal species, with distribution maps, small, but clear line drawings, information on their medicinal uses, ecology, propagation and planting, management and genetic resources. Extensive information is also provided on the pharmacological properties of the species, in which clear summaries are given on the outcomes of *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies with extracts of the medicinal species.

For another 263 medicinal species for which less information was available from the literature, short accounts are provided with distribution maps, but without line drawings. Species are listed alphabetically under their genus name. The complete text of this book, including distribution maps and line drawings, can be found on the website <http://www.prota4u.info>. Queries can be done on genera, species, key words, regions and a limited number of common names. The online database has colour photographs, which are lacking in the book.

TINDE VAN ANDEL