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# Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN INVALUABLE BOOK FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS ...The book is quite accurate and informative. It is also priced at a modest Rs (Indian) 60 and so should be easy on the pocket of medical students who are likely to benefit mostly from this book...

Handbook of Poisonous Snakes and Plants, 1st Edition, by D. Govindiah. Softcover, 5.5" x 8.5". Paras Medical Publisher, 5-1-473, Jambagh Road, P.O.Box No. 544, Hyderabad – 500 095, India. Email: parasmedpub@hotmail.com, Publication Date 2004. 68 pages, ISBN 81-8191-028-1. Price Indian Rupees 60.00

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D Govindiah

# Handbook o
# Poisonous S
# and Plants





This booklet is rather curious and covers two subjects, poisonous snakes and poisonous plants, with the common theme being poison. India, being a tropical country, there is no shortage of snakes and poisonous plants. Snakebite is common in the tropics, as is accidental and suicidal poisoning from plants and plant products. Doctors practising in such countries should therefore be in a position not only identifying cases of poisoning but also identify the snake or the plant concerned.

This little booklet is directed at them.

Govindiah is an Emeritus Professor of Forensic Medicine and apparently has vast experience of the subject.

The first section of the book covers snakes. Starting with a general discussion of snakes the book goes on to cover poisonous snakes. There is also a chapter on harmless snakes. Most of this section covers identification with the section on treatment consisting of a short chapter.

Section two covers poisonous plants with treatment discussed under each plant.

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The booklet is just that, a booklet and not an encyclopaedia. It is a quick reference manual and those doctors responsible for running large poison centres would no doubt prefer encyclopaedic works.

The book is quite accurate and informative. It is also priced at a modest Rs (Indian) 60 and so should be easy on the pocket of medical students who are likely to benefit mostly from this book.

There are a large number of line drawings and half tone illustrations. The latter unfortunately, are poorly reproduced due to the quality of the paper. This is obvious as the same illustrations are brilliantly reproduced on the cover. This however is a minor criticism.

Paras Medical Publishers are well known medical publishers in India and publish a number of excellent forensic texts.



*-Gyan Fernando*

*Dr. Gyan Fernando first studied Forensic Medicine and toxicology as a medical student at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) where he first assisted at an autopsy. After five years of Forensic Medicine as the Judicial Medical Officer in a remote district of Sri Lanka, which gave him considerable insight into matters forensic, he moved to Britain. He holds an avid interest in poisonous plants and animals around the world, and during his travels around the world, has collected innumerable species of poisonous plants and animals.*

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