

BITTER ROOTS



*Abena Dove
Osseo-Asare*

THE SEARCH *for*
HEALING PLANTS
in AFRICA

Bitter Roots The Search For Healing Plants In Africa

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare



Bitter Roots The Search For Healing Plants In Africa:

Bitter Roots Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, 2022-12-22 For over a century plant specialists worldwide have sought to transform healing plants in African countries into pharmaceuticals And for equally as long conflicts over these medicinal plants have endured from stolen recipes and toxic tonics to unfulfilled promises of laboratory equipment and usurped personal patents In *Bitter Roots* Abena Dove Osseo Asare draws on publicly available records and extensive interviews with scientists and healers in Ghana Madagascar and South Africa to interpret how African scientists and healers rural communities and drug companies including Pfizer Bristol Myers Squibb and Unilever have sought since the 1880s to develop drugs from Africa s medicinal plants Osseo Asare recalls the efforts to transform six plants into pharmaceuticals rosy periwinkle Asiatic pennywort grains of paradise *Strophanthus* *Cryptolepis* and *Hoodia* Through the stories of each plant she shows that herbal medicine and pharmaceutical chemistry have simultaneous and overlapping histories that cross geographic boundaries At the same time Osseo Asare sheds new light on how various interests have tried to manage the rights to these healing plants and probes the challenges associated with assigning ownership to plants and their biochemical components A fascinating examination of the history of medicine in colonial and postcolonial Africa *Bitter Roots* will be indispensable for scholars of Africa historians interested in medicine biochemistry and society and policy makers concerned with drug access and patent rights

Medicinal Plants Sanjeet Kumar, 2022-11-02 This book *Medicinal Plants* provides a comprehensive overview of plant species helpful for treating and preventing human diseases and disorders It also discusses how to obtain sustainable healthcare systems from nature and make harmony with currently available medicinal wealth ecology and the community

Medicine and Colonial Engagements in India and Sub-Saharan Africa Poonam Bala, 2018-06-11 This volume examines the various modalities of imperial engagements with the colonized peoples in the former British colonies of India and in sub Saharan Africa Articulated through race gender and medicine these modalities also became colonial sites of desire addressing colonial anxieties ensuing from concerted engagements Focussing on colonial India South Africa Kenya Uganda Swaziland and Zimbabwe this volume brings together essays from eminent scholars to examine the dynamics of colonial engagements and their implications in understanding their role in the dominant discourses of the empire Given its transnational perspective in addressing colonial India and Sub Saharan Africa the book will appeal to historians sociologists and anthropologists and to scholars and students in colonial studies cultural studies history of medicine and world history

Healing Knowledge in Atlantic Africa Kalle Kananoja, 2021-02-04 In this ambitious analysis of medical encounters in Central and West Africa during the era of the Atlantic slave trade Kalle Kananoja focuses on African and European perceptions of health disease and healing Arguing that the period was characterised by continuous knowledge exchange he shows that indigenous natural medicine was used by locals and non Africans alike The mobility and circulation of healing techniques and materials was an important feature of the early modern Black Atlantic world African healing

specialists not only crossed the Atlantic to the Americas but also moved within and between African regions to offer their services. At times patients Europeans included travelled relatively long distances in Africa to receive treatment. Highlighting cross cultural medical exchanges Kananoja shows that local African knowledge was central to shaping responses to illness providing a fresh global perspective on African medicine and vernacular science in the early modern world *Segregated Species* Jules Skotnes-Brown, 2024-07-30 A timely history of the connections between science segregation and species in twentieth century South Africa. Throughout the twentieth century rural South Africa was dominated by systems of racial segregation and apartheid that brutally oppressed its Black population. At the same time the countryside was defined by a related settler obsession the control of animals that farmers scientists and state officials considered pests. Elephants rampaged on farmlands trampling fences crops and occasionally humans. Grain eating birds flocked on plantations devouring harvests. Bubonic plague crept across the veld in the bodies of burrowing and crop devouring rodents. In *Segregated Species* Jules Skotnes Brown argues that racial segregation and pest control were closely connected in early twentieth century South Africa. Strategies for the containment of pests were redeployed for the management of humans and vice versa. Settlers blamed racialized populations for the abundance of pests and mobilized metaphors of pestilence to dehumanize them. Even knowledge produced about pests was segregated into the binary categories of native and scientific. Black South Africans critiqued such injustices and some circulated revolutionary rhetoric through images and metaphors of locusts. Ultimately pest control practices played an important role in shaping colonial hierarchies of race and species and in mediating relationships among human groups. Skotnes Brown demonstrates that the history of South Africa and colonial history generally cannot be fully understood without analyzing the treatment of both animals and humans. *Lion's Share* Veit Erlmann, 2022-10-28 In the aftermath of apartheid South Africa undertook an ambitious revision of its intellectual property system. In *Lion's Share* Veit Erlmann traces the role of copyright law in this process and its impact on the South African music industry. Although the South African government tied the reform to its postapartheid agenda of redistributive justice and a turn to a postindustrial knowledge economy Erlmann shows how the persistence of structural racism and Euro modernist conceptions of copyright threaten the viability of the reform project. In case studies ranging from antipiracy police raids and the crafting of legislation to protect indigenous expressive practices to the landmark lawsuit against Disney for its appropriation of Solomon Linda's song *Mbube* for its hit *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* from *The Lion King* Erlmann follows the intricacies of musical copyright through the criminal justice system parliamentary committees and the offices of a music licensing and royalty organization. Throughout he demonstrates how copyright law is inextricably entwined with race popular music postcolonial governance indigenous rights and the struggle to create a more equitable society. *History of Ashanti by Otumfuo, Nana Osei Agyeman Prempeh II* Tom C McCaskie, 2022-10-31 A history of Asante from the late 17th century to the 1930s authorized and produced by the 12th Asantehene Osei Agyeman Prempeh II. Perhaps the single longest historical work produced by a ruler of any sub

Saharan African society this is an indigenous account of the three hundred year history of a still vigorous African polity

Beneath the Surface Lynn M. Thomas, 2020-01-10 For more than a century skin lighteners have been a ubiquitous feature of global popular culture embraced by consumers even as they were fiercely opposed by medical professionals consumer health advocates and antiracist thinkers and activists In *Beneath the Surface* Lynn M Thomas constructs a transnational history of skin lighteners in South Africa and beyond Analyzing a wide range of archival popular culture and oral history sources Thomas traces the changing meanings of skin color from precolonial times to the postcolonial present From indigenous skin brightening practices and the rapid spread of lighteners in South African consumer culture during the 1940s and 1950s to the growth of a billion dollar global lightener industry Thomas shows how the use of skin lighteners and experiences of skin color have been shaped by slavery colonialism and segregation as well as by consumer capitalism visual media notions of beauty and protest politics In teasing out lighteners layered history Thomas theorizes skin as a site for antiracist struggle and lighteners as a technology of visibility that both challenges and entrenches racial and gender hierarchies

Curing Lives Makoto Nishi, 2023-04-26 This is a book about life during the HIV epidemic in Ethiopia and seeks to understand how and why the global effort to achieve universal HIV treatment has shifted away from its initial focus on the excessive human suffering precipitated by the epidemic When antiretroviral drugs became available in Ethiopia they emerged as powerful agents of change not only did they cure individuals they also helped people overcome their fear of and break the silence around AIDS while healing the social ruptures caused by the epidemic Nevertheless as this book argues the very same agents have silently reversed these changes over the course of the past decade These reversals have dissolved connections re incurred invisible social fissures and allowed a large majority of people to stay indifferent to the suffering of individuals whose lives remain vulnerable under the current treatment regime This whole process is a product of neoliberal global health interventions that determine which lives are worthy or unworthy of investment This book will interest scholars of biopolitics and public health those who study the developing world and those interested in how pandemic interventions alter the lives of many

The Experiential Caribbean Pablo F. Gómez, 2017-02-23 Opening a window on a dynamic realm far beyond imperial courts anatomical theaters and learned societies Pablo F G mez examines the strategies that Caribbean people used to create authoritative experientially based knowledge about the human body and the natural world during the long seventeenth century G mez treats the early modern intellectual culture of these mostly black and free Caribbean communities on its own merits and not only as it relates to well known frameworks for the study of science and medicine Drawing on an array of governmental and ecclesiastical sources notably Inquisition records G mez highlights more than one hundred black ritual practitioners regarded as masters of healing practices and as social and spiritual leaders He shows how they developed evidence based healing principles based on sensorial experience rather than on dogma He elucidates how they nourished ideas about the universality of human bodies which contributed to the rise of empirical testing of disease

origins and cures Both colonial authorities and Caribbean people of all conditions viewed this experiential knowledge as powerful and competitive In some ways it served to respond to the ills of slavery Even more crucial however it demonstrates how the black Atlantic helped creatively to fashion the early modern world

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