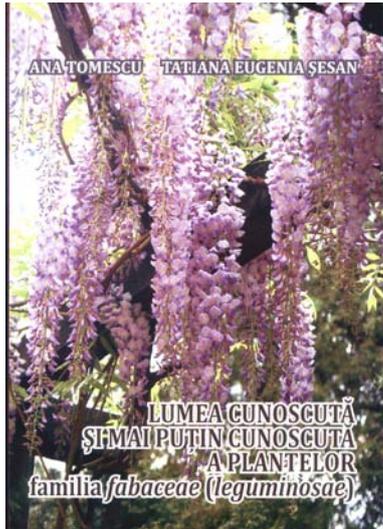


## BOOK REVIEWS



TOMESCU A., ȘESAN T.E., 2010 – *Lumea cunoscută și mai puțin cunoscută a plantelor. Familia Fabaceae (Leguminosae) (The Known and Less Known World of Plants. Family Fabaceae (Leguminosae))*. Ed. Universității București, 289 pp., 83 black-and-white drawings.

Based on a large number of cited references, the two authors offer the reader a small encyclopaedia of one of the main families of dicotyledonous angiosperms, especially in terms of their economic and cultural importance.

After a short chapter entitled “*Overview of the Fabaceae family*”, there are three chapters dealing each one with the tribes and genera of one of the three subfamilies accepted by the APG II system (*Papilionoideae*, *Mimosoideae* and *Caesalpinioideae*). The most important species in terms of food, industrial, ornamental, medicinal or phytogeographical importance are highlighted.

Each species is presented along with its main synonyms, common names (frequently also in the languages of the countries where the species is cultivated extensively or where there is a tradition of its use) by focusing on its practical uses and specific phytopathogens. In case of cultivated plants some aspects related to crop varieties and crop technology are also mentioned.

The notes at the end of chapters are extremely interesting and complex, so the reader can improve his knowledge, including those related to the cultural traditions of different human communities from both the Old and New World.

Although no botanical description of species is given, the specific or differential characters are often indicated, as well as the biogenetic centre of origin and the current distribution area.

The book ends with a glossary of botanical and medical terms, followed by a useful and necessary index of scientific names.

Perhaps a better word processing and a finer analysis by referees would have facilitated the reading of this book and would have avoided a series of small scientific mistakes.

Recognising and appreciating the authors’ effort and courage to approach such a large family of plants, we recommend this new publication to botanists, agronomists, gardeners and floriculturists, whether they are students or researchers. Finally, the book can be also used by those concerned of gastronomy.

*Vasile CRISTEA*