

## **Forage Plants in Mongolia**

**Sodnomdarjaa Jigjidsuren and Douglas A. Johnson, 563 pages, 308 colour plates, 6 maps, 6 black and white plates and drawings and landscape pictures. Ulaanbaatar, 2003.**

Sodnomdarjaa Jigjidsuren and Douglas A. Johnson's *Forage plants in Mongolia*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, is among the most complete and modern guides to forage plants in Mongolia. There are 6 colour habitat/scenery photos, which include some commonly distributed habitat types. The text is written in Mongolian and English languages and should be a useful aid for foreign and Mongolian researchers, botanists, students, herders and those interested in natural forage plants.

The book has seven chapters. The first two chapters are an especially valuable source of background information about geographic features, biological and ecological peculiarities of pasture vegetation. The remaining chapters describe forage plant species belonging to different families. For example chapter three describes all forage species belonging to Poaceae (grasses) family. The text includes scientific name, local name, morphological features, development cycle, distribution, site preference, palatability, nutrient value and significance. Index 1 consists of over

100 pages with 267 colour photographs and illustrations of species mentioned in the text. About 323 species of forage plant are described. The book also contains information about seed features of forage plants. Forage plants in this book occur in the main pasture regions of Mongolia such as high mountain pasture, mountain taiga pasture, mountain forest steppe, grassland and desert pasture. Most of the photographs were taken when the plant was blooming, therefore the book is a very useful identification key. Index 2 shows photographic plates of reindeer forage plants, the first photos showing reindeer pasture vegetation. Index 3 is a table of Latin, Mongolian and local names referenced to the associated colour plates. Species are listed alphabetically by Latin name. It is a useful table making the book a quick and easy guide to use. The final Index 4 is an alphabetical list of Mongolian names with page and plate number. In summary, I would say that the book is an informative and well illustrated guide to the forage plants of Mongolia.

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