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BOOK REVIEW

IARC MONOGRAPHS ON THE EVALUATION OF THE CARCINOGENIC RISK OF CHEMICALS TO HUMANS VOLUME 37. TOBACCO HABITS OTHER THAN SMOKING; BETEL-QUID AND ARECA-NUT CHEWING. AND SOME RELATED NITROSAMINES. — International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France 1985. 291 pp. US $ 25.00.

In Europe, North America and in some other parts of the world the use of tobacco is connected mainly with smoking of cigarettes, cigars and pipes. The objective of the 37th volume of IARC Monographs is to evaluate the carcinogenic risks of smokeless, tobacco use, such as chewing of tobacco and various tobacco containing mixtures, placing tobacco into the lower or upper groove (snuff) or tobacco-lime mixtures (nass, nasswar), brushing the teeth and gums with tobacco paste *etc.* The oral and nasal use of tobacco is mainly practised in South-East Asia and in Africa. The introductory Monograph presents a historical overview of various habits associated with the use of smokeless tobacco, manufacturing processes, production chemistry of tobacco and its toxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic effects. The second Monograph focuses on the genotoxic effects of chewing betel-quid (usually prepared by smearing a betel leaf with slaked lime to which small pieces of areca-nut are added) and chewing areca-nuts (fruits of the *Areca catechu* palm). Snuff and chewing tobacco contain a high concentration of N-nitroso compounds. This IARC volume includes further Monographs on the chemical and biological properties of tobacco specific nitrosamines: nicotine-derived nitrosamino aldehyde, nicotine-derived nitrosamino alcohol, N′-nitrosoanabasine, N′-nitrosoanatabine, N′-nitrosonornicotine, and some N-nitrosamines derived from areca-nut alkaloids. Of great value is a glossary describing various types of tobacco and its uses.

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