WOODS, J. T., MELLON, M. G.: Chlorostannous-reduced molybdophosphoric blue color in sulfuric acid system. – In: JACKSON, M. L. (ed.): Soil Chemical Analysis. Pp. 141–144. Prentice-Hall International, London 1941.

BOOK REVIEW

IARC MONOGRAPHS ON THE EVALUATION OF THE CARCINOGENIC RISK OF CHEMICALS TO HUMANS. ALCOHOL DRINKING. Volume 44. – International Agency for Research to Cancer, Lyon 1988. 416 pp. Sw. Fr. 65.–.

Alcohol consumption is associated with many health problems, *e.g.* cirrhosis of the liver, effects on the developing embryo and fetus and other diseases affecting the gastrointestinal, respiratory, nervous and reproductive systems. The objective of this IARC Monograph was to evaluate the carcinogenic risk of alcoholic consumption to humans. The introductory part of the publication presents data on the worldwide production of alcoholic beverages and trends in consumption. In most developed countries there is a decrease of the consumption of ethanol per head, but a rapid increase in the consumption of beer. Further chapters focus on the chemical composition, additives and contaminants of alcoholic beverages and biological data relevant to the evaluation of carcinogenic risks *e.g.* carcinogenicity studies in animals, metabolism, modifying effects of ethanol on the metabolism of xenobiotics, mutagenicity studies in bacteria, animals and plants, and epidemiological studies. The publication is appendixed by a list of compounds present in alcoholic beverages and the activity profiles for genetic and related tests on ethanol and acetaldehyde.

The conclusion of the IARC Working Group: a causal relationship has been established between exposure to ethanol and human cancer. One pleasant fact for moderate drinkers (*i.e.* those consuming fewer than 2 or 3 drinks per day): the risk for the occurrence of cardiovascular diseases appears to be for abstainers slightly higher than that in moderate drinkers.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts
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