



# Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany

By Robert C. Clarke, Mark D. Merlin

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*Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany* is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary exploration of the natural origins and early evolution of this famous plant, highlighting its historic role in the development of human societies. *Cannabis* has long been prized for the strong and durable fiber in its stalks, its edible and oil-rich seeds, and the psychoactive and medicinal compounds produced by its female flowers. The culturally valuable and often irreplaceable goods derived from *cannabis* deeply influenced the commercial, medical, ritual, and religious practices of cultures throughout the ages, and human desire for these commodities directed the evolution of the plant toward its contemporary varieties. As interest in *cannabis* grows and public debate over its many uses rises, this book will help us understand why humanity continues to rely on this plant and adapts it to suit our needs.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This well-written work will be useful for freshmen through seniors in higher educations. Researchers and teachers will also find it extremely helpful, and it will intrigue even casual readers."--L Swatzell"CHOICE Magazine" (03/01/2014)

"A valuable reference."--Quentin Groom"Plant Ecology and Evolution" (03/23/2014)

"Sure to entertain any cannabis fan."  
--Mitch Earleywine"High Times" (04/01/2014)"

#### From the Inside Flap

"The authors boldly demonstrate their capacity to survey both the biological evolution and widely varied human cultures' uses of cannabis. In doing so, they have produced a work that is thorough, globally ambitious, and carefully constructed. The extraordinary power and range of their cross-cultural perspectives are likely to elicit fresh consideration of familiar studies." —Richard Tucker, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan

"*Cannabis* is one of the best, if not the best history of the extraordinary plant *Cannabis sativa* that I have read. It is encyclopedic in its scope, painstakingly documented, and well written. A must for libraries, cannabis scholars and the growing number of readers who are interested in this remarkable plant." —Lester Grinspoon, Emeritus Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and author of *Marihuana Reconsidered* and *Marihuana, the Forbidden Medicine*

"This is a unique and valuable work. It aptly summarizes the voluminous literature on cannabis to bring the reader a better understanding of its origins and uses, as well as the relationship with man, its chief employer and manipulator. The authors' experience in the subject makes them uniquely qualified to synthesize and interpret the material in a coherent manner." —Ethan Russo, President of the International Cannabinoid Research Society

#### About the Author

**Robert C. Clarke** is Cannabis researcher and Projects Manager for the International Hemp Association in Amsterdam and the author of *Marijuana Botany* and *Hashish!*

**Mark D. Merlin** is Botany Professor at University of Hawai'i at Manoa and author of *On the Trail of the Ancient Opium Poppy*.

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