

In a superb 1986 Simon and Schuster book, **Life Above the Jungle Floor**, by Donald Perry, the author describes his Central American research odyssey in the tropical forest canopy of Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula . . . "the most botanically diverse ecosystem on the planet . . . an intricate factory of evolutionary ideas that has transformed the earth's life." He describes the "incredible reservoir of undiscovered plant-protective chemicals, all as different as the vast range of canopy plants" and bemoans the fact that "drug companies have not even scratched the surface of exploring a jungle's pharmacological wealth" even though an estimated \$40 billion worth of drugs sold each year contain active chemicals from plants. On page 79, Perry credits Nalini Nadkarni of U/Cal with discovery that many tropical trees have "crown roots" growing from their limbs, picking up nutrients from the limb soil that collects in the mats of epiphyte roots. "In effect," Perry says, "Epiphytes pay 'rent' in the form of nutrients, a commodity in short supply throughout the forest."

Nadkarni was featured in **Pacific Park Science**, (Vol. 1 No. 3 of the series that became **Park Science**) for her work in the canopies of the Olympic NP rain forest.