

BOOK REVIEWS

E.H.C. McKenzie (ed.). *Introduction to Fungi of New Zealand. The fungi of New Zealand vol. 1.* (Fungal Diversity Press, Centre for Research in Fungal Diversity, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China; website <http://www.hku.hk/ecology/mycology/FDP.html>. 2004.) ISBN 962-86765-6-3. Pp. 498; 16 coloured plates. In English. Price: USD 80.00.

Surprisingly little is known about New Zealand's fungi, of which many are believed to be unique to New Zealand. The authors estimate that about 2/3 of the expected 22,000 species are unrecorded. This first volume seeks to provide a foundation for understanding New Zealand's fungi, including taxonomic, ecological, historical and cultural knowledge, along with inventories of recorded species. It is a cooperative initiative by several New Zealand mycologists and a Swiss mycologist (Horak). The next volumes will provide monographic treatments of selected taxonomic or ecological groups of fungi.

The book starts with an abstract in English and Maori, and 16 coloured plates which illustrate some of the more conspicuous, colourful and distinctive species found in New Zealand. The first chapter of 48 pages gives a general introduction into the diversity and ecological roles of fungi. Fungi are considered in a broad sense, i.e. including also the fungus-like members of the Protozoa and Chromista. Attention is also drawn to the endangered species of New Zealand. The following chapter gives an overview of the history of taxonomic mycology in New Zealand (31 pages), which began about mid 1800. Chapter 3 reports on the Maori knowledge of fungi (37 pages), which dates from considerably earlier. A key to the genera of agarics and boleti is given by Horak of 19 pages, followed by pages with references to descriptions, illustrations and keys. Chapter 5 counts 197 pages and contains a bibliographic checklist of agarics, boleti and related fungi. Chapter 6 gives a bibliography of New Zealand taxonomic mycology (38 pages), the last chapter gives a checklist of all New Zealand 'Fungi' (87 pages), and the book is completed with an index to Chapter 1–3.

It is to be hoped that the start of this series will soon be followed by other volumes with monographic treatments on fungi from this interesting part of the world. This first volume is already a must for every mycological library and every mycologist interested.

M.M. Nauta

F. Doveri. *Fungi fimicoli Italici. A guide to the recognition of basidiomycetes and ascomycetes on faecal material. Guida al riconoscimento dei basidiomyceti e degli ascomiceti che vivono su materia fecale.* (Associazione Micologica Bresadola, Via Volta 46, I-38100 Trento, Italy, 2004.) English and Italian, Pp. 1,104, many unnumbered line-drawings and 158 coloured photographs. Price: EUR 110.00 excl. EUR 25.00 postal charges.

This impressive and well-printed book is fully devoted to ascomycetes and basidiomycetes growing on dung. The author, Francesco Doveri, a practicing physician and endocrinologist, spent more than 15 years on the study of fimicolous fungi in

Italy. Several preliminary studies on these fungi were published in Italian and French mycological periodicals, often in co-authorship with his compatriots G. Cacialli and V. Caroti. During a period of 10 years 90 species of fimicolous basidiomycetes and 217 species of ascomycetes could be identified. A considerable amount of information concerning recent studies in Italy and from many widely distributed studies and monographs on these fungi is brought together in this book.

The introduction contains a practical guide to the study of coprophilous fungi with advice how to grow them in culture and a list of animals that have proven to provide for favourable substrate sources. An extensive glossary of terms concludes the introductory part.

The descriptive chapters form the main part of this book (p. 29–1004). All texts, keys, descriptions, and notes are presented in alternating blocks in English and Italian, which makes the book widely available, also to mycologists who read Italian less easily. Successively, coprophilous representatives of Gasteromycetes, Agaricales, Pezizomycetes, Dothideomycetes, and Sordariomycetes are treated.

As evident from the subtitle, conidial fungi, slime moulds and Zygomycetidae, often forming an important aspect of the fungi found growing on dung, are not treated. All keys, descriptions, and notes are presented as alternating blocks of English and Italian text. Although this study is primarily based on collections found all over Italy, it is of greater importance because most of the more than 300 coprophilous fungi described have a very wide distribution and many keys include all species known world-wide. Each species reported from Italy is presented with its name, an extensive alphabetic synonymy, the original diagnosis as published, a list of specimens examined, macroscopic and microscopic descriptions, and critical observations. A full page of clear microscopic line-drawings is added.

On some occasions the author followed his own experience with his previous work and deviates from results published elsewhere. So in the case of *Iodophanus carneus*, contrary to Kimbrough et al. in their treatment of *Iodophanus* with many hardly separable taxa, Doveri accepts a rather wide conception of that species. But for the completeness of information a key to 16 species of *Iodophanus* is presented. The work ends with an impressive list of references (39 pages), an index with the full names and a series of 158 coloured photographs of good quality on special paper. This book is highly recommended to those who are interested in fungi growing on dung or those who prepare mycological courses for students.

J. van Brummelen

M.E. Noordeloos. *Entoloma s.l. Supplement. Fungi Europaei 5A*. (Edizioni Candusso, Via Ottone Primo 90, I-17021, Allasio SV, Italy, e-mail: maxcandusso@libero.it. 2004.) ISBN 88-901057-4-7. Pp. 618; 3 coloured plates, 342 coloured photographs, 102 line-drawings. In Italian and English. Price: EUR 68.00.

This book is the continuation of the *Entoloma* part of the series *Fungi Europaei* which appeared in 1992. Since that book, which treated 246 species, many new species have been published. In the Supplement an additional 100 species are treated, and an improved

key in English and Italian is published. The species are treated the same way as before, with elaborate bilingual descriptions and are mostly accompanied by drawings of the essential microscopical characters.

The Supplement starts with an introduction of 4 pages and an enumeration of the species of *Entoloma* according to section and subsection of 6 pages. The revised key occupies 61 pages, the taxonomical part 320 pages, the referencelist is 5 pages. On another 200 pages the 342 coloured photographs are found. The book is completed with an index to the Supplement and part 5 together.

The first impression is of a well-produced book with nice photographs, as we are used to from Candusso. The keys are greatly improved: more species with conspicuous characters, for example species with small thin-walled spores, are keyed out first. The lay-out of the keys is the same as in part 5: by way of a main key the user is referred to 17 other keys. The coloured plates are usually of (very) good quality, but do not depict all the newly described species. Sometimes species are depicted of which no picture was available for part 5. Although this Supplement is a must for each mycologist with a slight interest in Agaricales, some critical remarks can be made: the species in the book are renumbered, and species described in the previous part 5 are only mentioned without reference to the page where the description can be found. Of course the index can help, but it would have been of great help if the page number was given straight away. Some keys have annoying mistakes, and the line-drawings are not always of good quality.

The general advice is: buy it before it is sold out!

M.M. Nauta

R. Watling & S. Ward. *Fungi. Naturally Scottish*. (Scottish natural Heritage; pubs@snh.gov.uk; website <http://www.snh.org.uk>. 2003.) ISBN 1-85397-341-6. Pp. 35, several coloured plates. In English. Price: £ 4.95

In the series 'Naturally Scottish' this nice booklet about fungi has appeared. It gives an introduction to the kingdom of fungi and its main purpose is to awake interest in Britain's fungi. It introduces fungi in all their aspects and covers topics like reproduction and conservation, but also fungi and the law and conservation. All the topics are briefly treated, but it gives a good overview of what fungi are. The many coloured pictures are of good quality and as a whole this booklet is very attractive looking. Combined with easy reading this is a booklet especially for those who want a short introduction into the wonderful world of fungi. Recommended for educational purposes.

M.M. Nauta