

## REVIEWS

R. W. G. Dennis, *British Ascomycetes*. Revised and enlarged edition of "British cup fungi." (Verlag J. Cramer, Lehre, 1968). Pp. xxxii + 455, 31 figures, 40 coloured plates. Price DM 100,—; £ 8 10s.

The first edition of the present book, entitled "British cup fungi and their allies," was welcomed among others with the words "... the only reasonably complete synthesis of modern thought on Ascomycete classification known to this reviewer." (Korf in *Mycopath. Mycol. appl.* 16: 111. 1962). These words have lost nothing of their truth and could have been written with equal justification to greet the second edition; for it continues to be the best general book we have on Ascomycete taxonomy. But is it the kind of book that leaves nothing to be desired? Certainly not. The following may seem, and probably will be considered by some, to be mere details, but I have yet to meet the author who would maintain that details do not matter.

**Date of publication.** — Through no fault of the author the date of publication has been printed as 22.IV.1968. However, the publisher personally intimated that the first copies were delivered on the 10th of May, 1968.

**Authors' citation.** — In the enumeration shown below some examples are given of authors' citations as used by Dennis, followed by the corrected citation: p. 6, *Gyromitra esculenta* (Persoon) Fries—(Pers. ex Krombh.) Fr.; p. 17, *Peziza repanda* Persoon—Pers. ex Pers.; p. 32, *Leucoscypha leucotricha* (Albertini & Schweinitz ex Fries) Boudier—(A. & S. ex Pers.) Boud.; p. 42, *Cheilymenia theleboloides* (Albertini & Schweinitz ex Fries) Boudier—(A. & S. ex Pers.) Boud.; p. 48, *Geopyxis carbonaria* (Albertini & Schweinitz ex Fries) Saccardo—(A. & S. ex Pers.) Sacc.; p. 67, *Sarcoscypha coccinea* (Fries) Lambotte—(Scop. ex St-Amans) Lamb.; p. 143, *Pseudographis elatina* (Acharius) Nylander apud Karsten—(Ach. ex Fr.) Nyl. ap. Karst.; p. 152, *Dasyscyphus niveus* (Hedwig ex Fries) Saccardo—(Hedw. fil. ex Fr.) Sacc.; p. 153, *Dasyscyphus nidulus* (Schmidt & Kunze) Masee—(Schmidt & Kunze ex Schleich.) Masee.

**Spelling of authors' names.** — St. Amans (p. 7)—Saint-Amans (p. 259); Schröter (p. 98)—Schroeter (p. 363). The names of Sadebeck and Johansson (pp. 77–80) and of van Brummelen (p. 52, 58) have frequently been misspelled, the names of Starbäck (p. 334) and Blumer (p. 346) twice.

**Citation of literature.** — There are many instances of inconsistent citation. Here are a few. Ann. mycol. (p. 405)—Annales mycologici (p. 405); Beiträge zur Kryptogamenflora der Schweiz (p. 259)—Beitr. Krypt.-Fl. Schweiz (p. 382)—Beitr. Krypt. Flora Schweiz (p. 407); Giornale botanico italiano (p. 74)—Giorn. bot. ital. (p. 200)—Giornale Botanico Italiano (p. 426); Icones Fungorum (p. 403)—Icones fungorum (p. 422); Jahrb. Nass. Ver. Naturk. 23/24 (p. 406)—Jahrb. Nass. Vereins f. Naturkunde 23–24 (p. 409); S.B. Akad. Wiss. Wien (p. 161)

—Sitzber. K. Akad. Wiss. Wien (p. 161); Systema Mycologicum (p. 424)—Systema mycologicum (p. 426).

**C o m m e n t s w i t h s o m e t a x a .** — British mycologists seeking information on two species of British origin, *Peziza domiciliana* Cooke and *P. gerardii* Cooke, will draw a blank. On the other hand, mention is made of a Czechoslovakian species, *Fimaria porcina* Svrček & Kubička, of which it is not clear whether it has been found in Great Britain. Moreover, is it really a true *Fimaria*?

*Saccobolus glaber* (Persoon) Lambotte lacks a reference to the relevant literature.

*Sphaerosporella hinnulea* (Berkeley & Broome) Rifai is said to differ from *S. brunnea* "in growing on wet ground." Would that be all the difference?

The basionym author in *Trichophaea hemisphaerioides* is Mouton, not Montagne.

On reading the generic name *Cordyceps*, the writings of E. B. Mains come to mind, and *Hypoxylon* immediately evokes the name of its monographer, J. H. Miller. No reference is made to the work of either author.

The lack in the first edition of keys to the species has been felt; in the present edition amateurs with scanty access to scientific literature will find the tracking down of a species in large genera like *Nectria* and *Leptosphaeria* particularly difficult.

R. A. MAAS GEESTERANUS

ARX, J. A. VON, *Pilzkunde*. Ein kurzer Abriss der Mykologie unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Pilze in Reinkultur (Verlag J. Cramer, Lehre, 1967). Pp. viii + 356, 123 illustrations. Price DM 29.50; \$ 7.50.

The present book is an introduction to mycology and the two outstanding features are its conciseness and the clarity of its drawings.

As stated in his Foreword, the author endeavoured to provide a book that would be a guide both to students and to all those who are professionally concerned with mycology. Strictly confining himself to very few examples chosen to illustrate the taxa treated, the author has succeeded in producing a guide, not a text-book. He also introduced some changes in the taxonomic arrangement to fit his personal views. Some of the figures presented in the book have been derived from sources which are not acknowledged.

The book proves to fill a need, for information was received about a new edition being in preparation.

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*Mushroom Science VI*. Proceedings of the First Scientific Symposium on the Cultivated Mushroom, Wageningen, 1965, and the Sixth International Congress on Mushroom Science, Amsterdam, 1965 (Centre for Agricultural Publications and Documentation, Wageningen, 1967). Pp. 585, 130 text-figures, 115 tables, 14 × 21.6 cm, sewn. Price Dfl 45.—; 90 s; \$ 12.50.

This compact volume comprises fifty-two papers, dealing among others with the genetics, physiology, and cytology of *Agaricus bisporus*, with diseases, control of parasites, cultivation methods, and many other topics. Although most of the papers are obviously meant for circles engaged in a different occupation, some are of the greatest interest also for the mycologist-taxonomist. Examples are the papers by B. Betty Ivanovich (*Cytological behaviour in mushroom mycelium grown in submerged liquid culture*) and by Kisaku Mori & Kosuke Yamashita (*Differentiation and distribution of *Lentinus edodes* in Japan*).

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FIDALGO, O. & FIDALGO, M. E. P. K., *Dicionário micológico* (in *Rickia*, Supl. 2, 1967). Pp. viii + 232, 217 figures.

This dictionary has primarily been compiled to be used by Brazilian students of mycology and related disciplines.

The authors have freely borrowed from, and acknowledged the use of, the various glossaries already in existence. The resulting dictionary boasts of about 7000 terms which, combined with the numerous figures, will go far to compensate for the apparent lack of specialized educational matter in Brazil.

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