

BOOK REVIEWS

E. Ludwig, *Pilzkompedium, Band I. Die kleineren Gattungen der Makromyzeten mit lamelligem Hymenophor aus den Ordnungen Agaricales, Boletales und Polyporales.* (IHW Verlag, Eching, Germany, 2000 ('2001'). ISBN 3-930167-42-5 (plates), ISBN 3-930167-43-3 (text). Pp. 758, 188 colour plates, with numerous line-drawings. In German. Price: approximately € 178.—.

It took a long time to produce, but eventually early in 2001 the first part of this extensive compendium of macromycetes appeared. It is the result of decades of work by the author, who is known as a passionate mushroom collector and painter. Ludwig has the special gift that he is able to record the beauty and diagnostic characters of a mushroom in a unique way. The first volume consists of a large-sized part, 34 × 24 cm, with the icons, and a normal sized text volume.

The iconography contains 188 plates with a rather randomly obtained selection of the so-called 'smaller' genera of Agaricales, Boletales, and Polyporales, viz.: *Agrocybe*, *Armillaria*, *Arrhenia*, *Baeospora*, *Bolbitius*, *Callistosporium*, *Calocybe*, *Campanella*, *Catathelasma*, *Chaetocalathus*, *Chamaemyces*, *Cheimenophyllum*, *Clitocybula*, *Clitopilus*, *Crepidotus*, *Crinipellis*, *Cystoderma*, *Cystolepiota*, *Delicatula*, *Dennisiomyces*, *Dermoloma*, *Faerberia*, *Fayodia*, *Flammulaster*, *Flammulina*, *Galeropsis*, *Gamundia*, *Gastrocybe*, *Gomphidius*, *Gymnopilus*, *Hohenbuehelia*, *Hydropus*, *Hygrophoropsis*, *Hypholoma*, *Laccaria*, *Lentinellus*, *Lentinula*, *Lentinus*, *Lepista*, *Leucopaxillus*, *Limacella*, *Lyophyllum* (incl. *Tephrocybe*), *Macrocystidia*, *Marasmiellus*, *Marasmius*, *Melanomphalia*, *Melanophyllum*, *Mycerella*, *Mythiomyces*, *Myxomphalia*, *Naucoria*, *Nyctalis*, *Omphalina*, *Omphalotus*, *Oudemansiella*, *Ossicaulis*, *Panaeolus*, *Panellus*, *Paxillus*, *Phaeocollybia*, *Phaeolepiota*, *Phaeomarasmius*, *Pholiota*, *Phyllotopsis*, *Pleurocybella*, *Pleuroflammula*, *Pleurotus*, *Pseudobaeospora*, *Pseudoclitocybe*, *Psilocybe*, *Resupinatus*, *Rhodocybe*, *Rhodotus*, *Rickenella*, *Ripartites*, *Rozites*, *Schizophyllum*, *Simocybe*, *Squamanita*, *Stagnicola*, *Strobilurus*, *Stropharia*, *Tricholomopsis*, *Tubaria*, *Volvvariella*, *Xeromphalina*, and *Xerula*. Ludwig depicted almost all known European species of each genus, which makes this compendium remarkably complete. In addition many species have been depicted several times from various localities, in order to get a good impression of infraspecific variability. This alone makes this a unique publication. A few examples are (number of collections depicted in brackets) *Agrocybe praecox* (4), *Cystolepiota hetieri* (3), *Gymnopilus penetrans* (6), *Laccaria proxima* (5), *Lepista panaeolus* (4), *Lyophyllum tylicolor* (5), *Naucoria melinoides*, (4), *Omphalina obscurata* (4) and finally *Panaeolus olivaceus* (8!).

The text volume contains information on all genera, with diagnostic characters, literature references, and notes on species not included in the book. Every species is presented with the correct name, current synonymy, etymology, selected literature and iconography, ecology and distribution, as well as a concise but accurate description of macroscopical and microscopical characters, usually based on the authors own observations. References are given to the material studied, which is conserved in the authors private herbarium. A few critical remarks concern the fact that Ludwig in some cases included species which he did not see fresh himself. Some obscure species from literature, such as *Delicatula cuspidata* and the *Lyophyllum* species described

(invalidly) by Métrod are examples of doubtful taxa, which may not exist in reality. The lack of keys hampers identification, and makes it sometimes difficult to understand the status of some newly described taxa. The publisher took a great financial risk in producing this work, which probably is the reason for choosing the rather light and cheap quality of the paper used in printing the plates, and the binding of the book, which is a pity. The text volume is more robust, well-bound and easy to use.

In conclusion, however, one must state that this first volume of a total of five is very promising. When finished, this compendium will be without any doubt the most important publication on European macromycetes of the twenty-first century. It is to be hoped that the second volume will follow soon: we look forward to it, and recommend this publication warmly to all mushroom lovers.