

Book review

S. S. TZEAN, S. C. CHIU, J. L. CHEN, S. H. HSEU, G. H. LIN, G. Y. LIOU, C. C. CHEN et W. H. HSU:

Penicillium and related teleomorphs from Taiwan.

- 159 p., Food Industry Research and Development Institute, P. O. Box 246, Hsinchu 30099, Taiwan, R.O.C., 1994. ISBN 957-9055-17-3. 68 USD (paperback).

Penicillia, widely distributed and known fungi, are all the time drawing the attention of investigators. This pictorial atlas is 9th book in the series of Mycological Monographs prepared by workers of the Food Industry Research and Development Institute at Hsinchu, Taiwan. Some previous monographs dealt, for example, with the genera *Rhizopus* and *Aspergillus*. This book is a result of four-year research on *penicillia* and related teleomorphs in Taiwan. As the authors state, 4047 isolates were obtained for this study from miscellaneous substrates (soil, litter, seeds, dung, dried fruits etc.).

The book has five chapters. In the "Introduction" significance, morphology and history of the study of *penicillia* are shortly presented. In the following chapter material and methods are described. The chapter is completed with colour photographs of colony textures, line drawings of conidiophore types and conidia. Interesting information is included in the chapter dealing with "Occurrence and habitats" of the *penicillia* studied. On the basis of this study *Penicillium citrinum*, *P. oxalicum*, *P. simplicissimum* and *P. janthinellum* are considered to be the most frequent *Penicillium* species in Taiwan. A very important part are the dichotomous keys to subgenera and species based on micromorphological and macromorphological features. From the taxonomic point of view Pitt's system of the four *Penicillium* subgenera was followed.

The basic part of the book consist of plates and descriptions of 57 species of fungi (47 species of the genus *Penicillium*, 7 of *Talaromyces*, two of *Eupenicillium* and the in our country unknown species *Sarophorum palmicola*). Species descriptions are based on colony characters on Czapek yeast extract agar (CYA), malt extract agar (MEA), growth ability on glycerol nitrate agar (G25N) and on CYA at 5 C and 37 C. For colour nomenclature the manual by Kornerup and Wanscher was used. Microscopic features are given on MEA. Each species description is completed with excellent line drawings, colour photos of colonies, microphotographs and scanning electron microphotographs. In general, the emphasis is placed on the pictorial part of book. Unfortunately, some of the colonies have an unusual appearance (e. g. *Penicillium glabrum*) or unusual colours (e. g. blue agar on many photos). It would have been nice to have had a discussion on species, synonyms, taxonomic problems and references to related species.

The book is completed by a species index, an appendix with data sheets for the recording of important characters and a bibliography of 86 references.

The atlas has a conspicuous light pink-violet cover (20 × 28 cm) and is printed on high quality paper. Although this monograph deals primarily with *penicillia* in Taiwan, it is a valuable contribution to the world *Penicillium* literature. It can be recommended to all mycologists investigating soils, food and feed and many other substrates.

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