

Book review

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Hifomicetes dematiáceos de Cuba. Enteroblásticos

Museo regionale di scienze naturali, Monografie XXIII, Torino, 1997. 388 pages.
ISBN 88-86041-19-5. Hardcover price L 140 000.

In mycological literature there is continuing interest in the attractive group of microfungi with dark conidia, conidiophores or mycelium, the so-called dematiaceous hyphomycetes (Deuteromycetes). Information on these fungi given by Hughes, Ellis, Matsushima and Rao in the past are now complemented by a detailed and critical treatment of the enteroblastic dematiaceous fungi of Cuba.

This monograph is the result of several years of extensive research by the authors following up the previous studies by Castañeda Ruiz. It deals with the taxonomy and ecology of 201 species belonging to 68 genera of tretic and phialidic dematiaceous hyphomycetes found in Cuba. All species are described in detail and illustrated with black and white linedrawings on 121 plates; many illustrations are original, some others are taken over the world literature. All data are purposely extensive, as this is the first comprehensive study carried out on Cuba and probably in Latin-America.

Descriptions include macroscopic and microscopic features and valuable comments on taxonomy and ecology of each described taxon. The most important synonyms and where possible the anamorph-teleomorph connection are given. Moreover, notes on habitat, substrate, locality and date of collection and depository herbarium are included. The dichotomic key for all genera treated is based on the ontogeny of reproductive structures and other morphological characters. Further keys on the species level, together with excellent illustrations, enable a successful determination. The book is complemented with a bibliography (almost 140 entries) and a fungus/substrate index.

All material described has been collected on the island of Cuba, mostly in tropical forests, and with respect to this a noteworthy diversity of the fungi studied has been revealed. New or supplementary data on rare or obscure genera, such as *Piricaudilium* Hol.-Jech., *Paracerato-cladium* Castañeda, *Craspedodidymum* Hol.-Jech., *Mercadomyces* J. Mena, *Phragmospathulella* J. Mena et Mercado, *Holubovaea* Mercado, *Oramasia* Urries (the correct name of this genus is *Vermiculariopsiella* Bender) and many others, are very useful for current identification and taxonomic revisions in the future.

The treatment is the successful result of international cooperation. The authors come from Cuba and the Czech Republic (Holubová-Jechová, who unexpectedly died in 1993), the book is issued in Italy and written in Spanish (except the sleeve note in English). The monograph is not only an excellent contribution extending our knowledge of microfungi distribution and diversity, but many of the fungi treated here are important phytopathogenic species or cause spoilage of food and deterioration of industrial products. For that reason this book can be of particular interest to specialists on tropical mycology and fungal taxonomy as well as to phytopathologists and biologists in a broad sense.

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