

## Book Review

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### Combined Keys to Illustrated Genera of Ascomycetes Volumes 1 & 2.

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Illustrated Genera of Ascomycetes Volumes 1 & 2 contains two separate keys. For more simple operating with both volumes together a combined key to the 200 described genera is given in this slender but very useful booklet. The artificial key is based on teleomorph characters only. In the first step all genera are divided into four artificial groups (amerosporae, didymosporae, phragmosporae and dictyosporae) according to ascospores characters. The following dichotomous keys to the genera operate with clearly and concisely formulated characters. The keys appear to work well. Certain basic knowledge and some practical experience are expected, of course.

The booklet further contains some valuable chapters: synoptic lists of genera characters, general glossary of terms and diagrams explaining spore terminology and tissue types. Another important part presents corrections and additions to the first volume (1990). Additional taxonomical information, nomenclatorial changes and more recent references for the earlier descriptions are provided here.

Using this key, students should remember that only 200 genera are treated, out of about 3300 ascomycetous genera now accepted. Moreover, many genera treated include a great number of species which may display features not seen on illustrated representatives. Regardless of this, the whole project, covering three volumes of basic and significant information on ascomycetes diversity, offers a valuable identification guide for practical use and a welcome teaching aid for those interested in this group of fungi.

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