

Book Review

R. WATLING, J. C. FRANKLAND, A. M. AINSWORTH, S. ISAAC AND C. H. ROBINSON (Eds.)

Tropical Mycology: Volume 2, Micromycetes

CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK, 2002, xiv + 203 p.

ISBN 0 85199 543 8. Price £ 40 or US\$ 75.

(The book is deposited in the library of the Society)

This book contains eleven selected papers of the Millennium Symposium held in 2000 at Liverpool and follows the first volume dealing with macromycetes. The book is dedicated to the well-known Scottish mycologist Dr. R. W. G. Dennis, who was not only interested in several groups of tropical micromycetes but also in agarics and gasteromycetes.

The subjects of the papers are very diverse, so the readers obtain a wide spectrum of information on microfungi both from the New World and Old World tropics.

Some chapters cover systematics: an example is the chapter with a key to tropical species of *Nectria*-like fungi. The key includes about 140 common species of *Nectria* and related genera of *Nectriaceae* and *Bionectriaceae*. For each species the size of ascospores is given and where it is known, the name of the anamorph is mentioned. Each species is completed with a reference to a full description, which is very useful for users. The following chapter is focused on the taxonomy of sooty moulds, fungi typical of subtropics and tropics, numbering over 200 species. This short paper presents the results of a study of over 270 herbarium specimens and cultures of several genera characterised by e.g. micromorphological data and substrate utilisation. Also interesting is a chapter dealing with lignicolous freshwater fungi with reference to their teleomorph and anamorph stages. This paper contains new data on the life cycles of several lignicolous freshwater fungi.

Another chapter is focused on the biodiversity of fungi associated with *Pandanaceae*, a family with only three genera but 800–900 species. The authors concluded that approximately 450 species are known in this group, with 175 species unique for one species of *Pandanaceae*. Another chapter deals with the diversity and other aspects of tropical foliicolous and saxicolous lichens.

Two chapters are mainly interesting to phytopathologists. The sixth chapter deals with graminicolous Peronosporomycetes, the coevolution of the downy mildew and their hosts. The seventh chapter is more extensive than the others. It deals with several important pathogens of tree crops, e.g. *Hevea brasiliensis* and *Theobroma cacao*. The reader cannot only find here the history of causal agents and their distribution but also information on their control.

In chapter 9, the importance of invertebrate-pathogenic fungi is treated. Several systematic groups (mainly *Clavicipitaceae*) are discussed, as well as their effect as biocontrol agents or sources of novel secondary metabolites.

Noteworthy is chapter 10 about tropical mycoses which present hazard to travellers. Most of the main fungal diseases are treated, e.g. dermatomycoses, yeast infections, chromoblastomycoses, cryptococcoses, and *Penicillium marneffei* infections.

One of the most comprehensive chapters deals with biologically active metabolites from fungi. Many important metabolites used in pharmacology have their origin in temperate regions. However, the authors emphasise the importance of research of tropical fungi and give examples of discoveries of metabolites from tropical fungi.

All the chapters are written by world-known specialists and the papers reflect the current state of knowledge on tropical fungi. The overall concept of the book is very broad so that all mycologists will find an interesting topic in this book.

Alena Kubátová