

Book review

Illustrated Generic Names of Fungi. Etymology, Descriptions, Classifications, and References

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The book is based on a previous version written in Spanish by M. Ulloa and T. Herrera and published in 1994 in Mexico. That book contained 807 fungal genera with 795 black-and-white images. However, the present English version of the book will certainly have a much greater impact. It has, moreover, been broadly expanded: the total number of fungal genera in this book is now 1592. They are divided in three sections: Kingdom Fungi, Kingdom Chromista and Kingdom Protozoa. The term Protozoa is somewhat outdated, but this division is still practical. The genera are arranged alphabetically. Each generic name is provided with its taxonomic classification (corresponding to the time the book was created), a bibliographic citation of the originally described genus, etymology and diagnostic morphological characteristics. These characteristics are sometimes very detailed, containing e.g. a conidiogenesis type or photobiont genus in lichens. Ecology and mode of nutrition is mentioned also. Moreover, 1052 genera are illustrated with watercolours by Miguel Ulloa which make up a substantial part of the book.

The main aim of this famous book is simple: to clearly present the origin of generic names of fungi and to describe what the name means. As the authors have stated, “knowing the meanings of generic names aids in remembering the organisms themselves and enhances the appreciation of these organisms”. Images add another dimension to this goal.

Regarding the number of the genera, the authors state that it is less than 18% of the described genera. Even so, it presents a vast work deserving respect. In terms of diversity, the book includes all groups of fungi and fungi-like organisms: micro- and macromycetes, yeasts, lichens, slime moulds, oomycetes, etc. For example, do you know *Nia*, *Rubikia* or *Manoharachariella*? And what about nice fungi like *Turturconchata* or *Tyrannosorus*? In the book I also found Czech traces, e.g. genera described by F. Šmarda, L. Marvanová and M. Réblová (e.g. *Vascellum*, *Heliscina* and *Utriascus*, respectively).

I noticed only a few typographical errors throughout the book: “Gujurat” (Gujarat, p. 37), “*fragans*” (*fragrans*, p. 68 and 69), “*gregarious*” (*gregarius*, p. 102), “chasmathecium” (chasmothecium, p. 103), “*gonytrichoides*” (*gonytrichioides*, p. 114), “pod Pradedern” (pod Pradédem, p. 175), “*noliniae*” (*nolinae*, p. 181), “Unioersiiy” (University, p. 286), “*stémphyyla*” (*stémphylla*, p. 351), “sporocaps” (sporocarps, p. 441). Two images miss magnification rates: *Aliquandostipite* (p. 12) for the ascoma, and *Chlorophyllum molybdites* (p. 75). In the image of *Dacrymyces* (p. 106) the legends are swapped. The image of *Gymnoascus reessii* (p. 162) is not typical, *Phytophthora infestans* (p. 423) should have no septa in the sporangiophore. I mention these insufficiencies only to help improve possible further editions of the book. However, they do not diminish the overall good quality of the work.

I greatly appreciate the artistic value of the work. The watercolour illustrations are printed on quality paper. Although watercolours do not compare to precise line drawings or realistic photographs, they make the austere scientific data much more attractive.

The authors have gathered in this publication a huge amount of information which is often difficult to find elsewhere. I consider the book a very successful work that can be recommended as useful not only for students and teachers, but also for the whole mycological community.

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