

Book reviews

Books for consideration to review in this section should be posted to the Editor-in-chief.

Rating system

- ★★★★★ Exceptional/brilliant.
- ★★★★☆ Excellent.
- ★★★☆☆ Good'
- ★★☆☆☆ Has merit
- ★☆☆☆☆ Not worth reading

Dictionary of the Fungi, 10th Edition

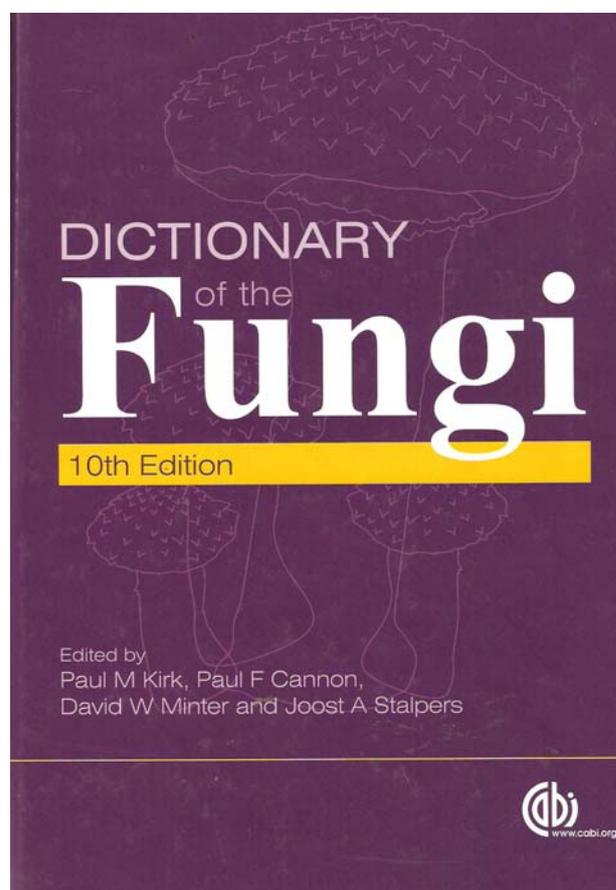
by Paul. M. Kirk, P.F. Cannon, D.W. Minter and J.A. Stalpers
 CAB International
 2008, 771 pages, hard back
 ISBN 978-0-85199-826-8.

This is the most essential text for any mycologist and the 10th edition is now out. This edition has concentrated on revision of classification of higher ranks within the fungi, largely based on the results of the AFTOL project. Another major development in this edition is to incorporate taxa at the family level into a new classificatory framework. There is also a further shift to placing anamorphic taxa within a holomorphic system. Furthermore the Dictionary comprises three parts, a Dictionary of the Fungi; a Dictionary of the chromistan / stramenophile fungi-like organisms and a Dictionary of the protozoan fungi-like organisms.

To check the changes since the 9th edition I randomly checked admissions to see if they had been updated and in nearly all cases dealing with taxonomic names and species numbers they had been.

As with all previous Dictionaries – this book is good and extremely essential. It is relatively large and one criticism is the binding as my 9th edition has already broken at the binding. This is exactly the same type of binding and I don't hold out too much hope that it will have a long shelf life – but I guess the 11th edition will soon follow. I always wished there would be more diagrams in the

previous dictionaries as diagrams can say so much more than words. This is also true of the 10th edition.



Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: The book should be available in all Universities and colleges and any research institute where research in any aspect of mycology is carried out or where mycology is taught.

Cost: £70.00, US\$140.00, €110.00

Order from: www.orders@cabi.org

Frontiers in Fungal Ecology, Diversity and Metabolites

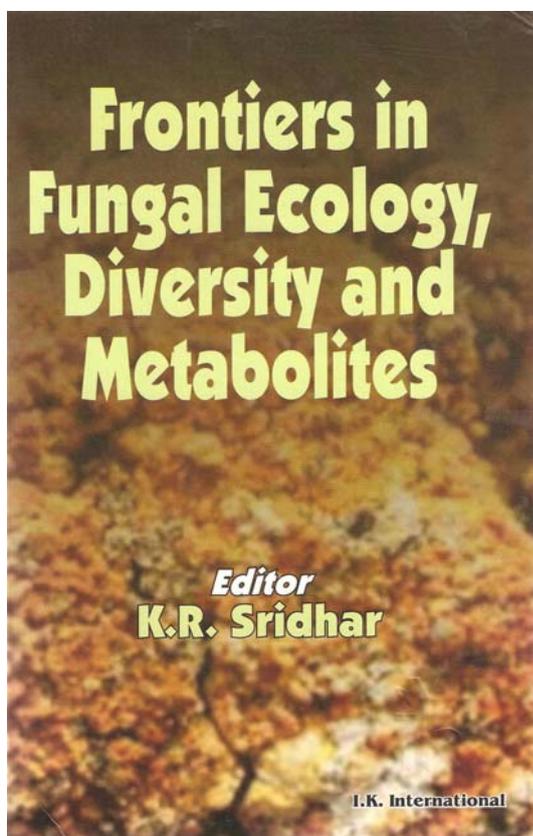
Edited by K.R. Sridhar

I.K. International

2009, 336 pages, hardback

ISBN 978-81-89866-91-4

The book starts with a dedication to Prof. K.M. Kaveriappa and then a preface which outlines the scope of the book. The book addresses fungal ecology, diversity and metabolites and includes contributions from several active scientists. Without being too harsh I wonder what the definition of active means, as very few of the authors in this book have voluminous recent SCI publications.



Chapter 1 is on freshwater hyphomycetes and the plate illustrating these fungi is very poorly reproduced. There is a general Chapter but it is up to date and very well referenced. Chapter 2 is also on aquatic hyphomycetes and is quite general. Chapter 3 is on mangrove fungi and provides a checklist of mangrove fungi from the Indian Peninsular. Chapter 4 addresses marine fungi and novel metabolites. Unfortunately the most recent reference is from 2006 and the recent edition of

Botanica Marina which has many papers on the topic would be better referred to.

Chapter 5 deals with Trichomycetes, Chapter 6 with forest pathology and provides a long list of pathogens, Chapter 7 lichens in Antarctica and Chapter 8, arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Subsequent chapters deal with endophytes, yeasts and medical mycology amongst other subjects, with a final chapter dealing with emerging issues.

This book would better be titled *Frontiers in Indian Fungal Ecology* as the authors are all Indian and the chapters mostly concentrate on India.

Rating: ★ ★ ★

Recommendation: The book could be available in universities and colleges where mycology is taught.

Cost: US\$ 105

Order from: www.ikbooks.com

Index of Fungi Inhabiting Woody Plants of Japan – Host, Distribution and Literature

By Takao Kobayashi

Zenkoku-Noson-Kyoiku Kyokai Publishing Co. Ltd

2007, 1227 pages, soft cover

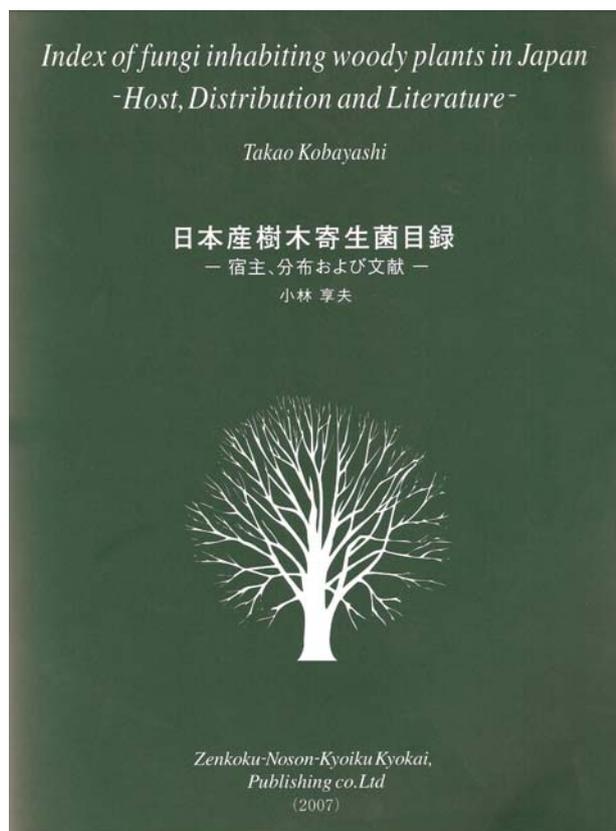
ISBN 978-4-88137-129-9

This is a huge volume indexing the fungi inhabiting woody plants of Japan. It is dedicated to Yoshiko Kobayashi and comprises a preface, enumeration of fungi, literature, and various indexes. This book is very detailed having taken 38 years to complete, has numerous records and will be a very important text for anyone working on Japanese fungi.

The index comprises a list of all fungi inhabiting woody plants which are arranged alphabetically. Entries for each species include synonyms, anamorphs / teleomorphs, Japanese names, disease names, hosts, distribution and notes.

Like any book of this sort it is hard to write much about its content – as it is what it is – an index. The names are up-to-date, while taxonomy at the higher level and its changes has sensibly been avoided, as fungi are listed in alphabetical order rather than taxonomic rank.

The book is nicely prepared, complete, and will be a source reference book for Japanese fungi for many years to come.



Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: Should be available in all libraries having any association with mycological research, plant pathology, or medical research.

Cost: Hardback £107.00, US\$199.00, €143.95.00

Order from: www.zennokyo.co.jp

Lichen Biology 2nd edition

Edited by Thomas H. Nash

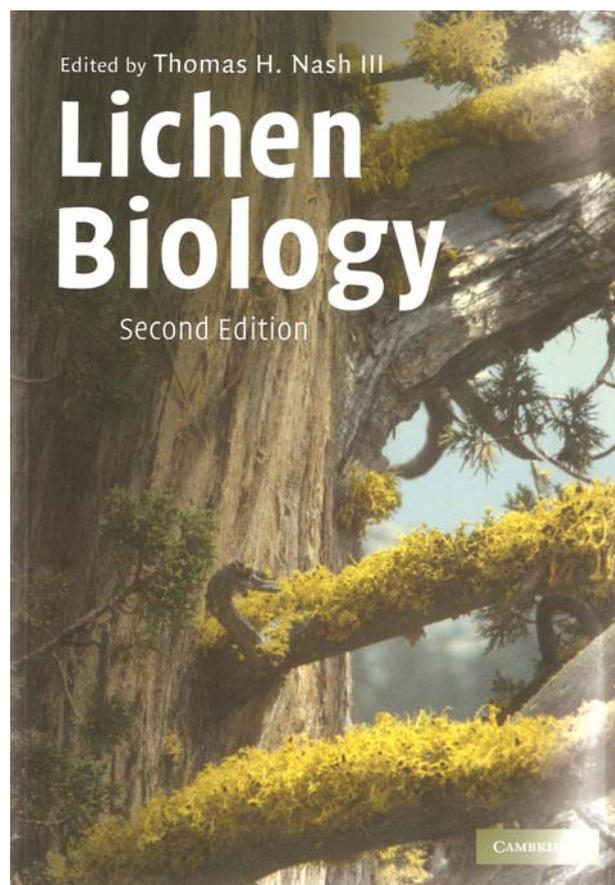
Cambridge University Press

2008 486 pages, hardback or paperback

ISBN 978-0-52169-216-8 (paperback), 978-0-52187-162-4 (hardback)

This book was first published in 1998 and has stood the test of time with the second edition being published in 2008. It is an edited book with 17 chapters and 21 contributors. The whole text is fully updated since the first edition and includes 4 new chapters including lichen genetics and sexual reproduction, stress physiology and symbiosis, and the carbon economy and environmental role of lichens.

If you want to know anything about lichens this is your book. It covers the basics but it also covers research right up to its publication date. Thus it can be considered as a basic text for lichens, for both teachers and students alike, but it also details the latest research with regards to lichens including the systematics and is a must for everyone working with lichens and even ascomycetes. It has a very comprehensive index and reference list which is up-to-date.



This is a complete compact book about lichens with topics discussing the phycobionts and mycobionts, morphology, biochemistry, nutrient cycling, pollution monitoring and systematics. The book is nicely written with a pleasing layout and is provided with ample figures and Tables to complement the text. There is even an appendix on culturing lichens, which is very important with the advent of molecular phylogenetics and biotechnology.

There are minor problems with this book. It would be nice to see some colour plates, however I guess this would have increased the cost of the book. This book should be obtained by all mycologists and be present in all

University libraries where biology is taught or studied.

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: For all libraries where biology is taught or where mycology or lichenology are researched. Should be available on all mycologists' bookshelves.

Cost: Paperback US\$70.00, hardback US\$ 140.00

Order from: www.cambridge.org

Central European Lichens, Diversity and Threat

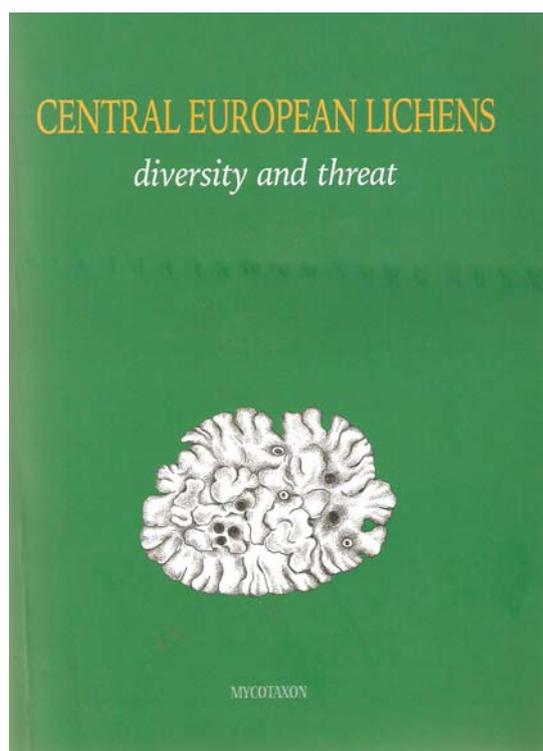
Edited by Anna Lackovičová, Anna Guttová, Eva Lisická and Pavel Lizoň

Mycotaxon

Mycology Series 26,

2006, 364 pages, paperback

ISBN 0-930845-14-5 (hardback), 0-930845-15-3 (paperback)



This book is a compilation of research papers dedicated to Ivan Pišút. The 20 papers deal with distribution, diversity and various aspects of lichen biology. Most of the chapters deal with diversity and distribution, such as Chapter 1 which deals with the world distribution of *Lecidia* species occurring in central Europe, Chapter 6 which deals with distribution of species of *Physcia* in Austria and Chapter 7 which deals with calciphilous species in

Poland. There are several chapters contributing to new records of lichens, such as Chapter 4 and 5, which provide new and interesting records of *Lepraria* and *Rinodina* in the Czech Republic. Chapter 2 provides a key to cetrarioid lichens in Europe. Chapter 19 deals with threats to lichens in Poland.

Overall the book is well written and nicely laid out but has few illustrations or figures other than maps.

The book has some valuable data but many chapters are certainly for the specialists interested in lichens distribution. The text is large and easy to read and there is a good index. I can recommend this book to lichenologists.

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: All University, colleges, research institutes and libraries where lichenology is taught or researched should have this.

Cost: for exchange only

Order from: eva.zaletova@savba.sk

Illustrations of edible and medicinal fungi in northeastern China

By Dai Yucheng and Tolgor Bau

Science Press, Beijing

2007, 231 pages, hardback

ISBN: 978-7-03- 019253-0



I review this and the following two books so that mycologists are aware of them. Although written in Chinese this book is full of excellent colour illustrations.



图-62A 鲍姆木层孔菌 (*Phellinus baumii*) 的子实体



This first book comprises 100 fungal taxa each fully described and illustrated. The taxa are either edible or medicinal fungi. Species are organized alphabetically by their Latin name and a full description in Chinese and English is provided. A large colour plate of each species showing macrocharacters and a set of line drawings illustrating the microcharacters is provided. The hosts and growing environment, growth season and collecting methods for each species are supplied in Chinese.

This is a very nice book, with high quality printing and colours and beautifully illustrated. Mycologists should have this on their bookshelves.

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: should be available in all college and university libraries and research institutions dealing with mycology.

Cost: Unknown.

Order from: email: yuchengd@yahoo.com

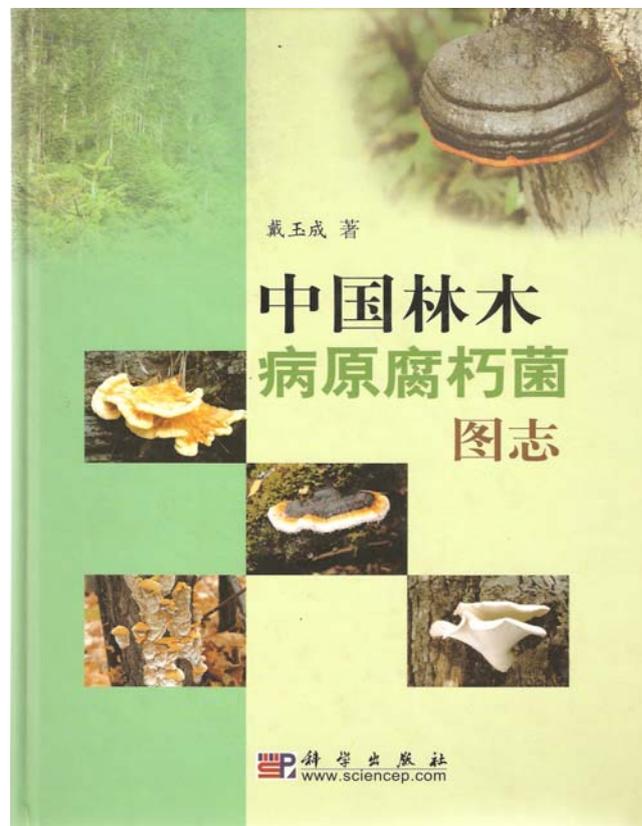
Illustrations of Pathogenic Wood-Decaying Fungi in China

By Dai Yu-Cheng

Science Press, Beijing

2005, 197 pages, hardback

ISBN 7-03-014241-1



This book is similar to the above book but this time deals with 80 species of pathogenic wood-decay fungi. Species are organized alphabetically by their Latin name and a full description in Chinese is provided. A large colour plate of each species showing macrocharacters and a set of line drawings illustrating the microcharacters is provided. The disadvantage of this book is that it is only in Chinese.

This is a very nice book, with high quality printing and colours and beautifully illustrated. Mycologists should have this on their bookshelves.

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: should be available in all college and university libraries and research institutions dealing with mycology.

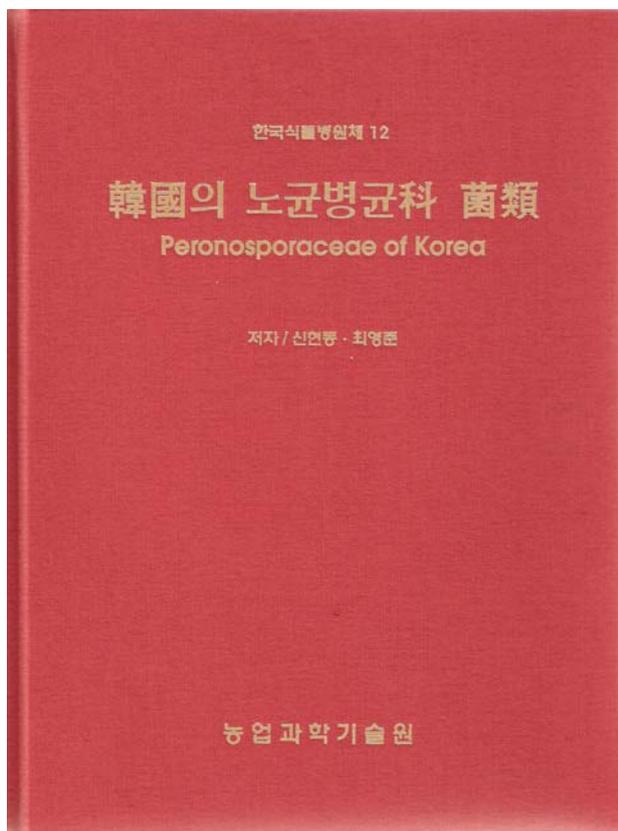
Cost: Unknown.

Order from: email: yuchengd@yahoo.com

Sylloge of Phytopathogens on Woody Plants in China [In Chinese]

Edited by Xu Meiqing and He Pingxun
Science Press, Beijing
2008, 1604 pages, hardback
ISBN 978-7-81076-148-2

This is a huge volume indexing the pathogenic fungi inhabiting woody plants of China. The sylloge comprises an account of all pathogenic fungi inhabiting woody plants which are arranged by major taxonomic group. Entries for each species include synonyms, descriptions and notes.



Like any book of this sort it is hard to write much about its content – as it is what it is – a synopsis. The names are up-to-date.

The book is nicely prepared, complete, and will be a source reference book for Chinese fungi for many years to come.

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: should be available in all college and university libraries and research institutions dealing with mycology.

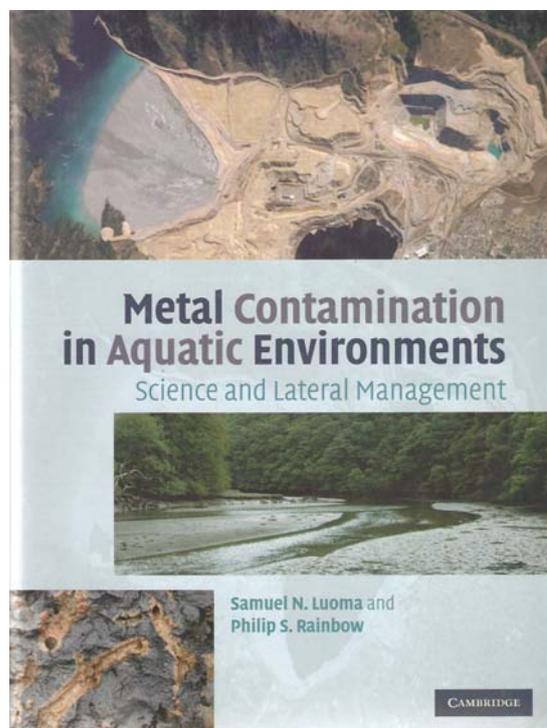
Cost: Unknown.

Order from: email: yuchengd@yahoo.com

Metal Contamination in Aquatic Environments

By Samuel N. Luoma and Philip S. Rainbow
Cambridge University Press
2008, 573 pages, hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-86057-4

This is an attractive book on metal contamination in aquatic environments and is topical. The book is written for students, risk assessors and environmental managers the authors explain why controversies exist in management of metal contamination and diseases solutions based on recent research findings.



There are 20 chapters in this book. The introduction deals with the need for such a book, what are trace metals and the scope of the book. Chapters 1-3 deal with managing metal contamination and integrating science into the process. Chapters 4-7 looks at trace metals including their contamination, sources, cycles, concentrations, speciation and bioaccumulation.

Biomonitoring is the topic of Chapter 8 and is topical. It deals with the general principles of biomonitoring, and how to choose an organism or suite of organisms for this process. Sections include tropical coastal biomonitors, freshwater biomonitors and interpreting biomonitoring data. I am particularly interested in the

potential of using fungi in freshwater biomonitoring. Potential biomonitors discussed include aquatic plants, forage and pelagic fish, zooplankton and aquatic insects. Chapters 9-11 deal with toxicity of trace metals, toxicity testing, and effects of trace metals in nature. Chapter 12 addresses the problems of mining and metal contamination; its science, controversies and policies. Chapters 13 and 14 deal with specific trace elements: selenium, tributyl tin and methyl mercury. Hazard ranking and water quality are discussed in Chapter 15, sediment quality guidelines in Chapter 16, while Chapters 17 and 18 deal with management and science and policy.

This is a very nicely laid out book which includes Boxes, Figures, Tables and Prologues. It is very easy to find ones way around the book as the heading and subheadings are superb. The book contains an incredible amount of data and provides a through background to the topic of the book

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommendation: should be available in all college, university, research laboratories and institutional libraries where there are courses and research or interest in pollution and its environmental effects.

Cost: US\$120.00

Order from: www.cambridge.org

Malaysian Fungal Diversity

Edited by E.B.G. Jones, K.D. Hyde and S. Vikineswary

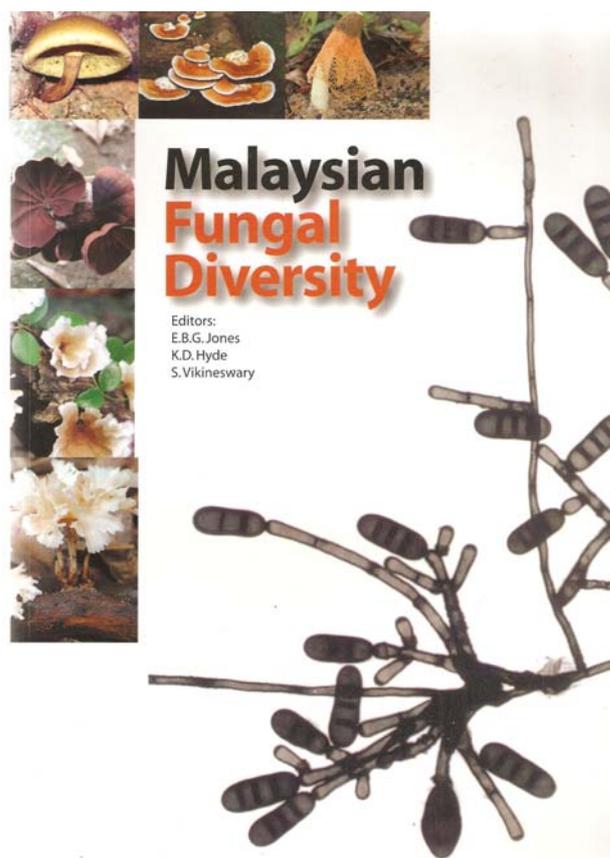
Mushroom Research Centre, University of Malaysia

2007, 421 pages, soft cover

The purpose of this review is to make mycologists aware of this book. It was published at the Asian Mycological Congress in Penang, Malaysia in November 2007 with the aim of compiling up-to-date chapter on the status of mycology in Malaysia up to this time. It deals with a wide range of mycological groups and subjects.

The book comprises 23 chapters dealing with all aspects of mycology in Malaysia. It has 4 sections; the Introduction, Taxonomic Groups, Ecological Groups, and Applied Mycology.

This is a large A4 book with large print and many colour figures



Rating: not rated as written by one of the editors.

Recommendation: should be available in all college, university, research laboratories and institutional libraries where there are courses and research in mycology or plant pathology.

Cost: unknown

Order from: viki@um.edu.my

Reviewed by

Kevin D. Hyde

School of Science, Mae Fah Luang University
Tasud, Chiang Rai 57100, Thailand