

duce a map of Stocks' territory but this is small criticism of a worthwhile and useful addition to the literature covering early travels and collections in SW Asia.

J. Lamond

**Fungi of Australia: Vol. 1A Introduction – Classification; Vol. 1B Introduction – Fungi in the Environment.** Executive Editor A. E. Orchard. Volume Editors K. Mallett & C. Grgurinovic. Australian Nature Conservation Agency. CSIRO. 1996. ISBN 0643 05802 8 & ISBN 0643 05935 0.

Although with enormous land area and an unbelievably wide spectrum of ecological niches, Australia has a dearth of fungal floristic works. However, these two volumes turn the corner in a monumental way, and promise a healthy future.

Vol. 1A, dedicated to Pat Talbot, contains contributions by Cheryl Grgurinovic, Tom May, Ian Pascoe, Warren Shipton, Elizabeth Truswell and John Walker. Topics covered are the classification of the fungi and keys to their orders with accompanying bibliography, history and biology of fungi, biogeography and the fossil record in Australia.

Vol. 1B, dedicated to John Walker, is by 18 authors, and contributions cover freshwater fungi, marine fungi, plant parasitic fungi (reflecting the long history of phytopathology in Australia), wood decay fungi, associations between arthropods and fungi, gut-inhabiting fungi, mycoses and macrofungal poisonings of animals, fungal toxins, fungi as a food resource, aboriginal knowledge (a most extraordinary chapter, probably the first time this topic has been addressed as a review), macrofungal poisonings of humans, fungi and mycotoxins in food, and human mycoses.

The volumes are well illustrated with line-drawings and lavishly supplied with an impressive assortment of very high quality colour photographs, covering all aspects of mycology, from macro- and microfungi to phytopathological items. Each volume is supported by a glossary and lists of abbreviations and contractions. The back covers give the contents in the forthcoming *Flora of Australia*, the orders arranged according to John Walker and an index to the volumes, 60 in all. I wish the scientists the best for the future.

These two books taken in combination could successfully be used as textbooks for fungal teaching in not only Australia but elsewhere. They are examples which should be followed, and make mycology exciting and interesting, covering all aspects of the study integrated with a systematic baseline. The references for each chapter are excellent and extremely extensive, a mine of information for students and professionals alike.

It would be folly to pick out any particular contributions as better than the rest, as they are all of high quality. Suffice it to say, I found Kalotas' contribution on aboriginal knowledge and uses of fungi and Truswell's account of the fungal fossil record both intriguing and instructive, and Walker's biogeography of fungi with

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special reference to Australia wide-ranging. I have little to fault these volumes except very minor quibbles such as the new combinations that are lost in a sea of text on p. 280 – a nomenclator's nightmare – but they never detract from the wholeness. The editors, editorial assistants and floral editorial committee should be congratulated. Australian mycology is on the map where with its unique fungal flora it should rightly be.

R. Watling

**Les Champignons des Alpes Maritimes.** J. B. Barla. Libreria Basso. 120,000 lira (c.£45). (Available from Maria Teresa Basso, Via Vigo 31, I-17021 – Alassio (SV), Italy.)

This is a reproduction of a book that has long been cited in monographic works on the Agaricales, but is rare and difficult to obtain on loan except from established institutes. It contains several new taxa and in recent years has been most important in solving tricky nomenclatural problems within the genus *Armillaria*.

Sixty-four plates of 840 figures cover nearly 200 taxa including 15 varieties and are restricted to those agarics in the major genera with white spore deposits. Barla supplied an excellent bibliography and the quality of the illustrations is extremely high. The innovation of this reproduction is that Barla's nomenclature and taxonomy have been updated – for *Amanita* by Pierre Neville and Serge Paramat, *Lepiota* by Massimo Cardusso, *Armillaria* and *Tricholoma* by Alfredo Riva and *Clitocybe* by Marcel Bon. At the reasonable price offered this is an excellent buy; one can possess a beautiful, classic work with modern commentaries by experts in their respective fields. Where else can you get such a bargain?

R. Watling