

for the *Cucurbitaceae*, are omitted altogether and there is no detailed discussion of the biogeography of *Cucumis*, which, given its distribution over Africa, Asia and Australia, could provide important insights into the systematics of the group.

At the practical level I have two main reservations with this work. The first is the failure to link the common names to scientific names, despite their use in the introduction (I had to resort to a web search in order to discover the scientific name of the kiwano). My second reservation is the placing of information not present in the book on an accompanying diskette, which, four years after publication, is no longer compatible with current computers or software. With the pace of development in computer storage media and in the programs themselves, it would seem more sensible to provide an accompanying website as has been done for more recent publications, e.g. *Flora Mesoamericana* (see <http://www.mobot.org/mobot/fm/>), where the website is a distinct publication with access to the information less dependent on the age or type of the user's computer.

Despite the above comments, this monograph represents a remarkably comprehensive taxonomic and nomenclatural revision. The accompanying keys and descriptions are clear and contrast well, and the illustrations are excellent. This work has undoubtedly become the major taxonomic reference for the genus *Cucumis* since its publication in 1993.

References

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Mycology in Sustainable Development: Expanding Concepts, Vanishing Borders.

Edited by M. E. Palm & I. H. Chapela. Boone, North Carolina: Parkway Publishers Inc. 1997. 306pp, 10 b/w photographs, 10 figures and tables. ISBN 1 887905 01 4. Hardback.

The book is composed of the papers presented at a workshop held in San Diego, California as part of the annual meeting of the Mycological Society of America. Fourteen papers are presented, arranged under five main headings and authored by 29 contributors. The volume commences with an informative scene-setter by Palm & Chapela.

The first two sections come within the remit of 'Enlightened Management', the first dealing with *Mushrooms as Non-timber Forest Products* and the second entitled *Inventory and Monitoring of Fungal Biodiversity*. The last chapter in the first section

deals with wild edible mushrooms in Mexico whilst the other three of the first four papers cover the highly prized and highly priced pine mushroom (*Tricholoma magnivelare*). This fungus has had much US media attention, even spawning a murder enquiry. However, focusing entirely on the pine mushroom does little to support the imposing title of the publication. Surely there are other fungal scenarios which need addressing in North America!

The second section is a broad-brush treatment of developments in the monitoring and inventory of mycodiversity in the Northwest US and Mexico, specific fungal studies in pine-oak forest in the Neovolcanic Axis of Mexico and a cost function study, which although informative is really out of place. The papers do not sit together comfortably.

The third section, under the title 'Environmentally Friendly Technologies', sweeps together three very practical areas, viz. role, diversity and potential development of mycorrhizae, mycocontrol of weeds and ecological management using fungal biocontrol. These contributions are well worth the reader's attention. Finally, two chapters are brought together under 'Diversification of Markets and Novel Fungal Products' and deal with *Cultivation of Edible Fungi as a Sustainable Alternative in the Tropics* and *Bioprospecting: Myths, Realities and Potential Impact on Sustainable Development*. The first chapter focuses only on Mexico and the latter deals with the maze of intermingled legal aspects which underlie the concept of 'Green Gold'; Chapela weaves through the intricacies admirably. The addition of a composite bibliography is a masterly stroke.

The contents of the book in no way met the reviewer's expectations when the wide-sweeping title was seen. Being based on a US workshop it is appropriate that it is restricted in outlook but the title does not reflect the tight brief. It is a shame the authors had not been more outward looking. Indeed, in many ways it would have been better to have published the articles separately as they collectively do not justify the title. Topics such as the long ethnomycological history in Southeast Asia surely should have been covered by the title selected. There are only a few illustrations but it is a shame this could not have been increased to ease a student into what is an important subject. The quality of the production of the black and white photographs is disappointing.

With these reservations it must be said that this is a very interesting and useful book, bringing the reader up-to-date with financial aspects of the wild mushroom harvest in the US, but there are some discrepancies in the figures given in different chapters. The volume is clearly written and easy to read, and the editors should be congratulated on the team effort they led. As the first of its kind, this publication will be a regularly referenced symposium.

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