

## Book Reviews

**Hanns Kreisel (editor): Pilzflora der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik. Basidiomycetes (Gallert-, Hut- und Bauchpilze).** — 281 pp. VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena. 1987. ISBN 3-334-00025-7.

This is an annotated checklist (no identification book) of the basidiomycetes (smut and rust fungi excluded) of the German Democratic Republic compiled by 14 authors, including the editor, Prof. H. Kreisel. The total number of accepted species in the country amounts to 2383 (plus 245 uncertain or erroneously recorded). Although the team worked intensively for 1977–1984 (with additions to the beginning of 1986) to make the list as complete as possible, the editor has to admit that numerous groups, such as *Clitocybe*, *Corinari*, *Entoloma*, *Hebeloma*, *Typhula*, and the Corticiaceae, are still quite insufficiently known in the area. The illusion still common in the 1960s that the composition of the macrofungus flora of Germany is essentially known has been broken thoroughly. A major feature of the list is that it is one of the first nomenclaturally modern checklists after the changes made in the nomenclature of fungi in Sydney in 1981. The sanctioning authors are also indicated, unlike in the recent British ascomycete checklist (Cannon et al. 1985). I think that ": Fr." and ": Pers." should be omitted except in strictly taxonomic and nomenclatural treatments. The readers should note that some of the nomenclatural designations in this book follow the proposals by the late Dr. Stephan Rauschert that are not generally accepted (e.g., that the names by Linnaeus do not require sanctioning). However, the authors point out that all the name changes that are necessary because of the new rules could not be made here, since further research on typification etc. is necessary. Among the changes in well-known names the following ones may be mentioned (many adopted also elsewhere): *Scutigera* Paulet instead of *Albatrellus* S. F. Gray (see the "Nachtrag"), *Guepinia* Fr. : Fr. instead of *Tremiscus* (Pers.) Lev., *Suillus viscidus* (Fr. & Hök) S. Rauschert instead of *S. aeruginascens* Snell, and *Lactarius turpis* (Weinm.) Fr. instead of *L. necator* s. auct. (*L. plumbeus* is regarded as a nomen dubium). The name *Lactarius sphagnetii* (Fr.) Neuhoff ex Gröger is here finally validated, though the nomenclatural novelties are normally published outside the book. In addition to the nomenclature and the taxonomy (which is generally sound) the authors give data on the ecology and distribution of each taxon in the GDR. The bibliography of the book is also very useful. This is a necessary manual for all basidiomycete taxonomists and can serve as an excellent model for those who are preparing similar books in other countries.

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**V. Urbonas, K. Kalamees & V. Lukin: Conspectus florum agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s. l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae (materies 1778–1984 annorum).** — 139 pp. Mokslas, Vilnius. 1986.

This is a checklist of the agarics of the Soviet Baltic Republics, actually the second edition; the first one was published in Russian by the same authors in 1974 under a slightly different title. The book includes 1449 species (1057 in Lithuania, 639 in Latvia and 995 in Estonia). The figures indicate a relatively high activity in recording agaric species in the area. The new edition contains an addition of 333 species when compared to the old one! The activity is also evident from the 506 papers or other works (some unpublished) in the bibliography of the local agaric floristics — most of the papers are in the Baltic languages or Russian. In addition to the scientific name of each fungus there is the citation of its first record in each republic as well as notes on the habitats, fruiting phenology, frequency and edibility. The taxonomy and nomenclature are said to follow the fifth edition (1983) of *Die Röhrlinge und Blätterpilze* by M. Moser, but some new species are described (e.g., *Calocybe phragmitidis* Kalam.) and many recently described species (e.g., *Lactarius leonis* Kytöv.) have been added. Because the treatment is following Moser, the nomenclature cannot be quite up-to-date, but an attempt is made to give the author citations according to the modern practice. The book is primarily in Latin (with short summaries in five other languages, on pp. 96–98), but the Latin language is often strange. For instance, the title of the book should apparently read "Conspectus florum fungorum agaricalium" etc. (now "florum" refers to flowers, but the concept fungal flora is acceptable by traditional usage). Other peculiarities include "in foliatis silvis" (pro silvis frondosis), "pinetis silvis" (pro pinetis), and "Estonia" (pro Esthonia). And why is the Latvian author of the book V. Lukins cited as "Lukin" (the Russian spelling)? One example of shortcomings in the list is the acceptance of *Lactarius blumii*, *L. pubescens* and *L. scoticus*, i.e. three species in a group where other authors accept two species, at most (*L. blumii* is a synonym of *L. pubescens* s. str.). The data on the edibility are interesting, but — as in almost all books — reflect the local traditions rather than true scientific knowledge in many cases. In any way, the book is a highly welcome manual for the mushrooms of the Baltic Republics.

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