

Book Review

Noordeloos, M.E.: *Entoloma in North America*. — Cryptogamic Studies (ed. W. Julich) 2., 164 pp., 92 figs., 3 tables. — Gustaf Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart & New York. 1988. ISBN 3-437-30596-4.

The Dutch mycologist Machiel Noordeloos is undoubtedly the best-known investigator of the genus *Entoloma* in the world. His painstaking research on this genus in Europe recently resulted in a very remarkable and lavish monograph of the genus, which deserves a place in the basic library of any mycologist who takes his interest in fungal taxonomy seriously.

Now Noordeloos has extended his research to the *Entoloma* species in North America, studying the types of the species described by the American mycologists L.R. Hesler, A.H. Smith, S.J. Mazzer and C.H. Peck. In this book he presents the species described by the first three mycologists.

Ninety-four taxa are examined, of which 62 are good species or possible synonyms of as yet untraced taxa. The rest are

synonymous with various taxa, 26 being identical with European *Entoloma* species. In his preface, Noordeloos writes that it was interesting to observe that fairly many of the North American taxa are very similar to European ones, but differ in minor characteristics. In some cases these differences could be interpreted as infraspecific variation, but sometimes they indicated the existence of vicarious taxa.

As in all standard monographs, the book begins with some tables (taxonomical status of the types studied, list of synonyms, synoptical key to the species, etc.). The taxonomical part of this volume presents the type collections with short descriptions, microscopical drawings (spores, cystidia and the pileipellis) and brief discussions. The drawings have been skilfully done and are no doubt informative to the initiated student of *Entoloma*, though to a layman like myself they are bewilderingly similar to one another.

Lasse Kosonen

Book Review

Gro Gulden & K.M. Jenssen: *Arctic and Alpine Fungi 2*. — 58 pp. Soppkonsulenten, Oslo. 1988. ISBN 82-991301-1-5. Price NOK 245.

The arcto-alpine agaric flora has been studied intensively in recent years, one of the foremost investigators being the Norwegian agaricologist Gro Gulden. She has lately studied the agaric flora in Spitsbergen and published a set of small books with Kolbjorn Mohn Jenssen and Jens Stordal. The second volume of this set has now appeared.

The text in this book was written by Gro Gulden and the photos were taken by K.M. Jenssen; J. Stordal was not one of the co-authors of this volume.

The second volume resembles the first in many ways. Each species is illustrated by a beautiful colour photograph, taken *in situ*. Short descriptions and microscopical details are given for each of the 25 species of the genera *Clitocybe*, *Cortinarius*, *Galerina* and *Omphalina* inter alia. Four species of *Arrhenia* are included.

The colour pictures are mostly of high quality, especially the beautiful and unusual pictures of small *Arrhenia* species. The cover is an exquisite close-up of *Arrhenia auriscalpium*. In some pictures (e.g. *Clitocybe lateritia*) there is some theatrical lighting.

Some holotype collections are also illustrated. These include *Agaricus arcticus*, which Gulden describes in this volume, and

Clitocybe paxillus and *Fayodia arctica*, described earlier in Sydowia. In addition, Gulden proposes the new combination *Naucoria tantilla* in *Alnicola*. The species of *Leptoglossum* are treated in *Arrhenia*, as is also *Arrhenia salina* described by Høiland.

The text is short but adequate. The most important features are included and microscopical features are presented with drawings (e.g. spores, basidia, cystidia and cells of the pileipellis). It is intriguing to read that the smell of *Clitocybe inornata* is pleasant. Does *Clitocybe inornata* smell different in Spitsbergen than in Finland, where the carpophores have a disagreeable odour? In her comments Gulden mentions that she observed no odour in the carpophores illustrated in the photo. "Smell indistinct" is surprisingly often included in the descriptions of this volume.

This book is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of arcto-alpine mycology. The species photographed are rarely depicted in other books on fungi. Most of the species also occur widely in alpine areas in Europe. The book will be valuable to mycologists visiting northern Lapland as well. The price (245 NOK) is unfortunately high for its mere 58 pages.

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