

## Book Review

### New atlas on Polish fungi

Wojewoda, W. 2000: *Atlas of the geographical distribution of fungi in Poland*. – W. Szafer Inst. Bot. Polish Acad. Sci., Kraków. 61 pp.

In the year 2000, the Department of Mycology, W. Szafer Institute of Botany, started to publish a new atlas of fungi. The Department belongs to the Polish Academy of Sciences, being situated in the historical Cracow. The first fascicle of *Atlas of the geographical distribution of fungi in Poland* presents ten species of mostly Aphyllophorales fungi, in a large A4 format. Fascicles will appear irregularly, each issue containing at least ten species. Eventually the Atlas is planned to cover all non-lichenized groups of fungi, including slime molds, and the species are presented in a random order as the maps are finished.

The mycological atlas will be a sister publication to the atlases on mosses (Ochyra & Szmajda 1983) and lichens (Cieśliński & Fałtynowicz 1993), also published by the W. Szafer Institute in Cracow. Single distribution maps have been published on a number of fungi in Poland, but the present one is the first comprehensive attempt in this field in the country.

In the neighbouring countries of Poland, some detailed atlases have been made. The most complete one is that by Krieglsteiner (1991a, 1991b), a superb work dealing with over 3500 species of agarics and non-gilled fungi, in two lavishly printed volumes. That book presents the distributions in West Germany, at that time the Federal Republic of Germany. From East Germany (previously the German Democratic Republic) such comprehensive atlases have not been prepared, but there are plenty of detailed maps of single species, or of certain areas (e.g. Dunger 1988). All in all, the tradition of mapping has been strongest in Germany, and the present Atlas nicely expands chorological information in the neighbouring Poland. The polypores of the Czech Republic and Slovakia were mapped by Kotlaba (1984).

Distribution maps are presented in a uniform grid system, divided in 10 × 10 km quadrates; in the map rivers are shown, as well as elevations in shaded tones, which is pleasantly informative, in particular, for non-Polish readers. What is very welcome is that the dots presenting the finding sites are shown in three characters, separating the finds before the year 1900 from those of 1901–1945, and after 1945. This information, usually missing from atlases, gives us a possibility to estimate whether the species is expanding, declining, or fairly stable, which is important for instance when the Red List status is estimated. An even more detailed grading (e.g. for every 10 years after 1945) would be desired for some rapidly vanishing species, such as terrestrial hydneous fungi. What is not indicated is whether a record is based on herbarium specimen, or mere data in personal notes or in publications. This is no problem when well-known species are dealt with, but will certainly be so in many critical genera.

In addition to the map there is a detailed supplementary text on the taxonomy of the species and its occurrence in the area. Localities are very accurately described, too, and the lists of references seem to be complete for Poland. In the first volume rare species are dealt with, but such an accuracy may be difficult to carry out with the commoner ones.

The project of mapping of mere macrofungi is an immense one. The decision of Wojewoda to present the species in a random order is good: by doing that all the finished species can rapidly be published. Any attempt to make complete sets of maps throughout the systematic groups of fungi is doomed to partially fail: The fungal systematics is now in a turbulent phase while molecular studies change our earlier concepts. On the other hand, even in our most familiar genera new species are frequently found when the research methodology becomes more accurate, and available materials from remote areas accumulate.

The first issue of the Atlas deals with species in the genera *Asterodon*, *Bondarzewia*, *Cyphellostereum*, *Eocronartium*, *Ganoderma*, *Inonotus*, *Peniophora*, *Porostereum*, *Stypella* and *Xylobolus*.

*Atlas of the geographical distribution of fungi in Poland* is so informative, and so high-quality in its layout and printing, that the reader will eagerly wait for the next issues to come. It is hoped that the team of contributors (in this volume W. Wojewoda, A. Miśkiewicz and M. Piątek) will grow large enough for a frequent publication of the forthcoming fascicles.

The Atlas is available from the W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Lubicz 46, PL-31512 Cracow, Poland (ed-office@ib-pan.krakow.pl). It costs 17 USD.

## References

- Cieśliński, S. & Fałtynowicz, W. (eds.) 1993: Atlas of geographical distribution of lichens in Poland 1. – Polish Acad. Sci., Kraków. 67 pp.
- Dunger, I. 1988 (1987): Kartierung der Porlinge (porige Polyporales und Poriales) der Oberlausitz 1. Verbreitung und Ökologie der Arten. – Abh. Ber. Naturkundemus. Görlitz 60(11): 1–160.
- Kotlaba, F. 1984: Zeměpisné rozšíření a ekologie chořešů (Polyporales s.l.) v Československu. – Academia, Praha. 194 pp., 123 maps.
- Krieglsteiner, G.J. 1991a: Verbreitung der Grosspilze Deutschlands (West) 1A, Ständerpilze, Nichtblätterpilze. – Ulmer, Stuttgart. 416 pp.
- Krieglsteiner, G.J. 1991b: Verbreitung der Grosspilze Deutschlands (West) 1B, Ständerpilze, Blätterpilze. – Ulmer, Stuttgart. Pp 417–1016.
- Ochyra, R. & Szmajda, P. (eds.) 1983: Atlas of the geographical distribution of spore-plants in Poland 5. Mosses 1. – Państwowe Wydawn. Naukowe, Warszawa & Poznań. 31 pp., 11 maps.

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