

Book Reviews

Barr, M. E., S. M. Huhndorf & C. T. Rogerson (1996). The Pyrenomycetes described by J. B. Ellis. *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* vol. 79, 137 pp. – The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458-5126, U. S. A. ISBN 0-89327-415-1, hardcover. Price: US\$ 25.00 excl. postage and handling.

This annotated list of pyrenomycetes described by J. B. Ellis was started to celebrate the centenary of the publication of the book "The North American Pyrenomycetes" by J. B. Ellis and B. M. Everhart in 1892. In that book Ellis & Everhart treated 2080 species in 173 genera, arranged in 23 families in 5 suborders. For a long time this was the only mycological reference available to North American mycologists. Barr, Huhndorf and Rogerson, all distinguished authorities in fungal systematics have studied about two thirds of the Ellis and Everhart's specimens mainly deposited in the New York herbarium. This has allowed them to designate accepted species and to assign them to current names, at the same time redispersing others into synonymy. The compendium contains almost 1500 entries arranged in alphabetical order by original species epithets. Fifteen new combinations are proposed. A list of 150 *nomina nuda*, an index to substrates by Latin names with reference to the fungal species occurring on it, and an index to generic names are provided. Information on type specimens is given. This is the result of intensive herbarium research and checks of existing indices by the three authors.

The volume provides a good access to the wealth of information Ellis and Everhart have gathered. At the same time, the modern systematic arrangement of the collections listed is given. Buying this book is in my opinion a good investment for all mycologists working in pyrenomycete systematics and taxonomy who are looking for a good synopsis of early contributions on North American mycology. The volume is designed for frequent use: It has a strong cover and binding and a typesetting that make reading quite easy.

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Fungi of Australia Vol. 2A, Catalogue and Bibliography of Australian Macrofungi 1. Basidiomycota p.p., 348 pp, 1 colour plate. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra (1997). CSIRO Publishing, PO Box 1139, Collingwood 3066, Victoria, Australia. ISBN 0 643 05929 6, hard cover; ISBN 0 643 05930 X, soft cover. Price: hard cover \$A or US\$ 69.95, soft cover \$A or US\$ 54.95.

Two issues of the series Fungi of Australia are planned for 1997, the vol. 2A and 2B. The first part is now published and contains a catalogue and bibliography of Australian macrofungi, esp. basidiomycota. The book aims at giving easy access

to the literature and at providing a valuable base for future monographic work. References for Australian macrofungi in the Agaricales, Boletales, Cantharellales, Gautieriales, Hymenogastrales, Melanogastrales, Podaxales and Russulales, most lamellate and cyphelloid Aphyllophorales, and some of the Phallales are compiled in this volume. The remaining groups in the Aphyllophorales and Phallales, Auriculariales, Dacrymycetales, Lycoperdales, Nidulariales, Sclerodermatales, Tremellales, Tulasnellales, Tulostomatales and the larger Ascomycota will be included in vol 2B. The classification follows the system used by Walker (1996) and is presented in the inside front cover of the volume. Extra-Australian macrofungi forming mycorrhiza or saprobic on *Eucalyptus* spp. which might have been exported out of Australia together with their host plants are listed at the end of the book.

The delimitation of the orders is based on the concept outlined in the 7th edition of the Dictionary of the Fungi, although reference is made to the 8th edition when changes have occurred. Species are arranged within genera mainly according to the system described by Dennis & al. (1960), Moser (1983) and Singer (1986) and references for the individual Australian records are given in detail. Several individual species are annotated and information on the type species, as well as all synonyms of genera and species are given. Full citations are also provided. Species *incertae sedis* are marked.

At the beginning of the book the structure of the annotated list is described and it is meticulously explained how to use it and how to interpret typographical signs. A summary of abbreviations and contractions is provided at the end of the book. The authors have included the most recent literature as well. In fact, the bibliographic index extends over 58 pages. An index differentiating between accepted names and synonyms or doubtful names is provided. The species listed can be found very easily, as their names are printed in boldface and in a larger font than the descriptive text. The header shows the order and the genus, thus making navigating the book and finding names fairly easy. The only illustration is on the front cover and on the first page. It shows *Austroboletus occidentalis* painted by Katrina Syme. On the other hand, illustrations are not needed, because the book is intended to list species and is an inventory of the studies that have been carried out so far on Australian fungi. It is meant to facilitate the access to the literature on Australian macromycetes, thus encouraging mycologists to take up further monographic work, so badly needed to give an insight into the biodiversity of Australian fungal biota. This volume, as the former ones, is carefully edited. Printing, binding and paper quality are good, the information is provided in an open and critical manner. I am very pleased to see the series progressing so well.

References

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Sydowia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1997

Band/Volume: [49](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Book Reviews. 199-200](#)