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Book Review

Jacobs, K. & M. J. Wingfield (2001). *Leptographium* Species: Tree Pathogens, Insect Associates, and Agents of Blue Stain. – APS Press, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121-2097, USA; ISBN 0-89054-278-3; 8½″ × 11″ soft cover, 224 pp, 156 black and white illustrations, US$ 69.–.

This monograph summarises the experience of over 20 years' work with species of *Leptographium* and its teleomorphs and includes the description and illustration of forty six species. For each species the authors provide information on the teleomorphic state, the etymology of the specific epithet, good descriptions of the cultural and microscopic characters as well as notes on its geographic distribution, host, substrate, and relationship with insect species. Each species is illustrated by line drawings, light micrographs and scanning electron micrographs.

The main body of the book is preceded by chapters providing general information on the genus. Its taxonomy, the tree diseases associated with *Leptographium* species, insect associations, hosts and geographic distribution are reviewed in detail. Practical sections include how to work with *Leptographium* in the laboratory, how to isolate it from various substrates and to carry out genetic studies with the species. Extensive information is given on the preparation and storage of cultures. Two dichotomous keys, one for the identification of *Leptographium* spp., the other for its *Ophiostoma* teleomorphs are presented and a synoptic key to the anamorphic species is also provided. The descriptions are in alphabetical order according to the species epithet. Where the teleomorphic state is known, the genus name *Ophiostoma* is used. The differentiating characters are explained and illustrated in the general chapters, which should allow the users to navigate securely through the keys. Species delimitation is based on studies of appropriate type material and cultures, thus leading the authors to redefine terms and character states.

The monograph aims at providing a practical tool for species identification and is intended mainly for the pathologists working with blue stain and other diseases related to *Leptographium* spp. For this reason the species descriptions are based exclusively on morphological and cultural characters. The line drawings present extremely accurate illustrations of the various taxa, the light micrographs give an overall impression of the morphology of the conidiophores, and the scanning electron micrographs complete very well the pictorial information. The quality of all illustrations is good. I was amused to find in this book detailed recommendations for culture storage, as I was convinced that this information should be part of the mycologist's general knowledge, but obviously this may not be the case. It is true that this basic knowledge may have been forgotten as morphological studies based on fungal cultures are getting more and more rare.

I have only few criticisms to this book. The only really imperfect side of the book appears to be the index. I cannot understand the authors' inclusion and exclusion criteria of a name in the index. I cross-checked some citations and for instance I could not find *Graphilbum*, *Graphiocladiella*, *Hyalopesotum*, *Pachnodium*, *Pesotum*, and *Phialographium*, all cited on p. 5. *Grossmannia* according to

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the index is mentioned only on p. 5, but can be found also on p. 6. *Dendroctonus terebrans* on p. 15 is an entry only as a subordinate name of *Leptographium terebranti*, whereas its occurrence on other pages is listed as an own entry. The presence of the name *Pinus resinosa* on various pages is mentioned in the index, but not the one on p. 15. The index is certainly not a major issue of the book, but a better accuracy would have been welcome.

The strength of this monograph is without doubt the coherent presentation of the known *Leptographium* species and the inclusion of complete descriptions and illustrations. The identification keys appear to be well constructed and are obviously a welcome tool for taxonomists. The taxonomic remarks on related genera and synonyms are useful, as are the listings of hosts and distribution. One major advantage of this book is the kind of information needed for its use: No molecular studies are required to identify species – it is "just" designed for people who have the practical need to find a name for a *Leptographium*. I fully agree with the author of the foreword, Keith Seifert, that this book will be the standard reference work for a long time to come.

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