

Book Reviews

Holec, J. (2005). The genus *Gymnopilus* (Fungi, Agaricales) in the Czech Republic with respect to collections from other European countries. – Acta Musei Nationalis Pragae, Series B, Historia Naturalis, June, 61 (1–2): 1–52, ISSN 0036-5343. Available from the Author (jan.holec@nm.cz) or from the Myris Trade Company (myris@myris.cz).

This monograph of the Basidiomycete genus *Gymnopilus* is based on a thorough study of macro- and microcharacters, substrates, fructification periods, relation to vegetation and distribution of numerous Czech and European collections of *Gymnopilus*. In the introduction, a very useful overview of basic taxonomical works on *Gymnopilus* is given, including the most recent literature. Materials and methods give detailed information on the careful and sound methodology applied in this study. A key to the identification of the European species is also provided. All nine species recognized to occur in the Czech Republic are described in detail in the taxonomic part. Each taxon is critically discussed. Besides nice line drawings, also basionyms, synonyms and an extensive iconography are provided for each taxon. Photographs of important microcharacters are provided for each species. Colour photographs taken in the natural habitat are given for six species. The only drawback of this publication is that it was published in a journal, which is difficult to obtain for many mycologists. Moreover, it has more the appearance of a thick reprint, than of a book, because front and back covers are missing. Nevertheless, in summary this small but beautiful monograph of the genus *Gymnopilus* is a very useful booklet, which should not be missing in the libraries of mycologists dealing with this group of fungi.

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Raitviir, A. (2004). Revised Synopsis of the Hyaloscyphaceae. Estonian Agricultural University, Institute of Zoology and Botany. – Scripta mycologica 20. Published by the Estonian Academy of Science. 133 pp. ISBN 9985-9293-3-0. Available from the Author (e-mail address: ain@zbi.ee) or from the Edizione Candusso di Candusso Massimo (e-mail address: maxcandusso@libero.it).

This book is the long-awaited update of the “Synopsis of the Hyaloscyphaceae” published by the same author twenty five years ago. Moreover, the last comprehensive treatment of this family was published by Dennis in 1978. In the meantime, knowledge in this family increased exponentially, and many new genera and species were described. Based on ultrastructural (Leenurm *et al.* 2002) and molecular data (e.g. Abeln *et al.* 2000), the Hyaloscyphaceae Nannf. split into two

well-delimited groups corresponding to the subfamilies Hyaloscyphidae and Lachnae. Therefore, the author now considers these groups on family rank and proposes the new family Lachnaceae (Nannf.) Raitv. As a consequence, this book now focusses on Hyaloscyphaceae *sensu stricto*, the former subfamily Hyaloscyphidae Nannf., only. Nevertheless, 29 genera with 234 species and 7 varieties are now included (the first edition included only seven genera in this subfamily!).

After a short introduction, keys to the genera are provided. The genera are then presented in alphabetical order, each of them furnished with a brief but very informative genus diagnosis followed by a dichotomous key to the species. All species are described, and line drawings are provided for critical taxa. For all species, references are given for the original descriptions, and for drawings or descriptions by other authors. Moreover, new species are also described in this small booklet (e.g. *Venturiocistella uliginosa* Raitv.), or new combinations are presented (e.g. *Chimaeroscypha echinulata* (Raitv. & Huhtinen) Raitv.).

The index is well-organized, and genera are easily found as written in upper case. All together, this is a book which each field mycologist fond of small, hairy ascomycetes should possess, and also use for a fast, easy and reliable identification of these small and beautiful fungi.

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Jahr/Year: 2005

Band/Volume: [57](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Anonymus

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