

Forbes for North America, and so on. There should have been a literature list where the interested user of the book could have sought more and detailed information. Such aid is absolutely necessary for anyone trying to arrange a collection with the help of the book, as a grouping to families alone is not enough. On the other hand, arrangement of the genera in a systematic order would have made illustrations of particular species more difficult to find and restricted the scope of the work. This literature list is one of the *desiderata* for the next edition of the book, doubtlessly to appear shortly.

Another valuable improvement would be a cross indexing of the text, so that at the end of one faunal region the species occurring there but figured in another region would be listed with an indication of where the figure is to be found: e.g., many North American species also occurring in Scandinavia (*Boloria* especially), or those common to Asia and Indo-Australia (e.g., *Vanessa canace*) to name only two cases, but there are many, many more.

It was, of course, not possible to check on every name and record in the book. Nevertheless we would like to draw attention to the following for emendation in future editions: Plate 18, one would like to see the most common American *Erebia discoidalis*; Plate 14, Number 24 is a *Vanessa*; Plate 18, Number 15 is *Enodia* and not *Gnodia*; Plate 19, Numbers 6 and 7

have to be exchanged one against another; Plate 19, Number 11 is a *Celastrina* not "*Cyaniris*" (see Plate 9 Number 13); Plate 15, Number 3 is not American but Indo-Australian (like all Pacific Islands); other than North American: Plate 6, Number 2 *iphioides*; Plate 7, Number 5 *lupina*; Plate 11, Number 9, *lysimon* is invalid homonym to *knysna* (Plate 11, Number 8); Plate 33, Number 13 and Plate 35, Number 12 are identical species with different generic names (!); Plate 92, the heading Nymphalidae is missing; Plate 125, Number 8 has to be *Lycaena abotii*; Plate 128, Numbers 57–65 has to be *Coeliades*, not *Coliades*.

Also in the text are discrepancies which should be amended, e.g., p. 220, Plate 22, Number 25: *Pholisora mejicana* (not *mejicanus*) is to my knowledge not flying in Canada: this is *Pholisora catullus* which should at least have been named as "similar."

Nevertheless, it was a pleasure to review this book and we wish it all and every success; however, we suggest that in future editions the determinations of the species, their names and their spelling as well as the text in general should be thoroughly rechecked.

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BOTANY

Mushrooms of North America

By O. K. Miller, Jr. Second printing, May 1973. Dutton and Co., New York. 360 pp. \$20.75. Available in Canada from Clarke, Irwin and Co., Toronto.

There are a number of books which deal with recognition of the commonly occurring mushrooms; however, Dr. Miller feels that his will "satisfy the needs of all types of possible users: the casual observer, the ardent amateur mycologist, and the student of biology." The geographic area covered is the continental United States and Canada.

In appearance this book is pleasing. The cover is a warm, coarsely woven linen embossed with a picture of morels. The quality of binding appears to be very good, the print is large and easily readable, and the printing is of a high quality. The 292 colored photographs, large enough to be both technically useful and aesthetically pleasing, are one of the better published collections of fungus illustrations. The book, 18.5 cm wide and 26 cm high, contains 360 pages, which include 108 pages of plates in color and nine pages of black-and-white drawings.

The first printing of this book was reviewed by Dr. K. A. Harrison, Kentville, Nova Scotia in the journal *Mycologia* (Vol. 65: 977, 1973). The second printing has some minor changes, apparently based on Harrison's review; for example, the correct spellings for *Hericium*, *Morchella semilibera*, *caesarea*, etc., have been inserted, the fungus numbered 152 is now labelled *Mycena elegantula*, and the order of a few of the plates has been changed with no adverse effects.

Miller presents and enlarges upon the better features of several earlier books on mushrooms. The amateur will find these features easy to use and generally helpful, particularly the plates, the section describing the use of keys, the illustrated keys, the illustrated glossary, and the highlighting of key characters of each mushroom in boldface.

The major drawback in the book is the great number of errors, and anyone not familiar with the mycological literature and mushrooms should be careful when quoting it. These errors appear in several forms: misspellings, incorrect author citations, mistakes in

the bibliography, imprecise wording, incorrect punctuation, lack of italics for some generic and specific names, wrong verb tenses, etc. Following are a very few comments on particular items, starting with the title, which seems rather immodest, when one considers that there may be as many as 10,000 species of gilled mushrooms in North America. In the Contents, the Gasteromycetes and Heterobasidiomycetes are given the same rank as Basidiomycetes, even though they are themselves Basidiomycetes. The simplified Picture Key presents each of the principal groups in the form of several ink drawings of representative species. The drawings of Boletes, Polypores, the Bird's Nest fungus, and the Jelly Fungi are too small to be helpful to the inexperienced. In the paragraphs on Collecting Methods it is mentioned that the taste of the mushroom should be recorded; however, the method of tasting is not mentioned. To taste an unknown, possibly poisonous, mushroom, place a small piece (*ca.* 5 mm square) on the tip of the tongue, crushed repeatedly by biting, then spit the pieces out; *never* swallow them. The paragraph on the names of authors that follows the species' name contains a number of errors. For example: species number 18, the authors should read "(Fr.) Mass."; 21 should read "(Fr.) S.F. Gray"; and 264 should read "(Underwood) Murr." Furthermore, the List of Abbreviated Names of Authors of Fungi (p. 359) contains notable errors and omissions. Some are: Atkinson's initials are G.F.; Berkeley's are M.J.; some correct spellings are Czerniaiev, Kalchbrenner, and Klotzsch; a confusing omission is the name of Wm. Curtis, which Miller abbreviates "Curt.," the identical form used for M.A. Curtis; throughout the book the names Léveillé, Pilát, Quélet, Mérat, and Müller lack the accents; some of the abbreviations in the text but not in the List are 194 Sing., 245 Paul., 285 Kl., 329

Walf. [sic], 369 Desv., and 392 Raitv.; finally "Vahl." is a rather unusual abbreviation for Vahl. Mycologists will not be misled or confused by some of these perhaps minor points but in a book designed for students, general biologists, and naturalists these mistakes could be very disconcerting.

Throughout, the word "stalk" is used whereas "stipe" is usually heard. The use of "veil" instead of "annulus" or "ring," for a part of the partial veil is uncommon and misleading not only because it is rarely heard but the glossary definition of veil refers only to the universal veil. Also in the glossary see the unique definition of "clamp connection," and compare the definition of "Melzer's reagent" with "dextrinoid." "Chicken of the Woods" is the common name usually given to *Polyporus sulphureus* but Miller applies it to 237 *Rozites caperata*. And *Rhizina* is misspelled in every instance noted.

In summary, the Canadian interested in mushrooms should initially consider two books, which are complementary: Lange and Hora, *Mushrooms and Toadstools*, Dutton, New York, 1963, *ca.* \$7.00; and J.W. Groves, *Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Canada*, Department of Agriculture Publication 1112, 1962, *ca.* \$10.00. The excellent photographs in *Mushrooms of North America* nicely complement these texts. Although most of the species in Miller occur in Canada this is not always noted and except for a few personal experiences of the author there is little reference to Canada's flora. And the authoritative book on Canadian mushrooms by Groves is not cited.

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A Flora of Southern Illinois

By Robert H. Mohlenbrock and John Voigt. 1974. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale and Edwardsville. 390 pp., 77 plates. \$3.95 (US).

This appears to be an exact offset reproduction on a thicker and softer paper of the 1959 hardcover glossy-paper edition which at the time sold for \$7.50. The print is clear and legible, but the illustrations have suffered slightly in the reproduction, being somewhat darker in tone.

The book contains a short introduction, keys to families, genera and species, and easily flowing more or less short paragraphs which present the ecology and distribution, frequency, occasionally a few descriptive words, time of flowering, and usually a very cryptic specimen citation. References are given to illustrations in *The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora*.

That this *Flora of Southern Illinois* has been well accepted is borne out by the necessity for printing this second edition. A reviewer of the first edition (*American Midland Naturalist* 64: 235-254, 1960) suggested that in future editions the addition of a map, and the realignment of the genera and species, either alphabetically or numbered in the order of the key so that the text might be more readily consulted, would greatly enhance the work. It is unfortunate that this was not done.

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