The Genus Diaporthe Nitschke and Its Segregates. By Lewis E.

In this book the author, who has published extensively on Pyrenomycetes for more than a decade, undertakes the immense task of bringing
order into the welter of more than 650 species that have accumulated in
the genus Diaporthe since it was erected by Nitschke 67 years ago. Four
genera, Diaporthopsis, Apioporthe, Diaporthella and Cryptodiaporthe, are
recognized in addition to the basic genus, of which an amended definition
is supplied. To this redefined genus, cited as Diaporthe Nit. Emend., are
referred 70 different species not counting the recently described cranberry
parasite, Diaporthe vaccinii, which is stated in an addendum to be closely
related to D. phascolorum. The latter species is definitely made to include
as varieties two parasites of economic importance that have enjoyed specific
rank under the binomials D. sojae and D. batatis. The pathogenic form
known under the binomial D. (Phomopsis) citri likewise is shorn of its
independent status, being listed as a variety of D. medusae.

The segregated genera show a smaller, yet still respectable, membership,
19 approved species being listed under Cryptodiaporthe, 3 under Diapor-
thella, 8 under Apioporthe, and 6 under Diaporthopsis. Two species of
Diaporthopsis are cited as not having been examined, and 1 receives atten-
tion in the chapter on "Doubtful species" together with 18 species of
Diaporthe. Excluded from Diaporthe are 89 species, among them the very
familiar Endothia parasitica, and also the rose-canker parasite, Diaporthe
umbrina, which is held to be referable to Cryptosorella. A final chapter
entitled "Species not seen" gives 149 names, all under the genus Diaporthe,
with the original descriptions in Latin, English, German, French, Spanish,
or Magyar attaching to them.

The morphological criteria are accorded primary importance in distin-
guishing the various species from one another. Host relationships are, how-
ever, kept clearly in view by giving separate treatment to plurivorous forms
under each genus or other convenient group of host plants on which they
occur. Such separate treatment includes citations of synonyms, individual
host species, countries from which the host relationship has been reported,
pertinent exsiccati, herbaria or individual collections in which material rep-
resentative of the host relationship is found, and conidial connections to-
gether with appropriate discussion of the fungus in relation to the particu-
lar host plant or group of host plants in question. The semi-diagrammatic
drawings illustrating outward habits, though hardly elegant, are yet work-
manlike and consistent in execution. Especially to be commended are the
figures of the spores that appear at a uniform magnification of ×1000—a
uniformity certainly very desirable in any comparative work. The usefulness
of the volume is enhanced by a well conceived index and by adequate
keys to the species of the several genera treated. In a period of enfeebled
finances it may not be inappropriate to add that the price of the book ap-
pears unusually reasonable.—Charles Drechsler, United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.