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Fungi on Plants and Plant Products in the United States

By David F. Farr, Gerald Bills, George Chamuris, and Amy Rossman. 1989. APS Press, St. Paul, Minnesota. 1252 pp. U.S. $59. in the USA, U.S. $74 elsewhere.

The book, a technical reference text, is an up-to-date directory to the literature on fungi which attack plants or plant products in the United States. It is composed of three major sections: the Host-Fungus Index, the Fungus List, and the Literature Cited. Other sections are the Host Index, the Common Name Index, the Fungus Index, and a list of Authors of Fungal Names.

The Host-Fungus Index, 548 pages long, is the core of the book. It lists the plant families, alphabetically, and within each family the genera are listed alphabetically. Under each genus is a list of the fungi which occur on each species in that genus. Each fungus listed is accompanied by the State(s) where each fungus-plant association has been found, and the citation of the pertinent scientific report. For example, for the plant *Ledum groenlandicum*, Labrador Tea, page 174 lists the sixteen fungi reported and these range from Alaska to New York.

The Fungus List, 472 pages long, lists alphabetically the fungus genera and within each genus the species are arranged alphabetically. Accompanying each fungus species are notes on its distribution and host plant genera. For example, on page 932, the common plant disease fungus *Rhizoctonia solani* is reported to attack over 400 plant genera.

The Host Index lists the generic names of the plants and the pertinent page number. It was necessary because to use the Host-Fungus Index the user must know the family in which the genus of interest occurs. The Common Name Index lists some common names of the plants and the pertinent page number, a courtesy which allows the user to find a plant without knowing the scientific name. Finally, the Fungus Index lists the fungus species names and the pertinent page number in the Fungus List.

The book is an excellent example of the flexibility that a computer brings to the sorting and rearranging of a large volume of data. As a systematist, mycologist, and sometime plant pathologist, I have found continual use for this volume for a variety of purposes. In addition, the data are on-line and I have been able to obtain, through the courtesy of Dr. David Farr, printouts of the data rearranged to suit my purposes.

There is no doubt that this book will be a standard reference for years to come. Its appearance at a time when we are beginning to recognize the lack of baseline data, for biological surveys and biodiversity studies dealing with the fungi, will increase its importance as a basic point of reference.

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