

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Los Nombres de los Hongos y lo Relacionado con ellos en América Latina. Introducción a la Etnomicobiota y Micología Aplicada de la Región: Sinonimia Vulgar y Científica.** Gastón Guzmán. Xalapa, Veracruz: Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Apartado Postal 63, 91000 México. Pp. Xx, 357, five color paintings, three color photographs, 27 B/W illustrations, 19 B/W photographs, four appendices, 24pp bibliography of 486 references, no index. US\$30.00; MN\$200.00 in Mexico (sew-and-glue paperback); US\$50.00, MN\$300.00 in Mexico (Smythe-sewn hardcover); all prices postpaid. ISBN 968-786306-4.

Gastón Guzmán is one of the pioneers of Mexican mycology. He participated in the scientific rediscovery of the psilocybian mushrooms in 1957 as a student field-assistant to German mycologist Rolf Singer and later became the leading authority on their taxonomy. He wrote the monographic treatment of the genus *Psilocybe* (Guzmán 1983) and has now produced an encyclopedia of Latin American ethnomycology. Guzmán was originally inspired by the seminal ethnomycological studies of Valentina P. and R. Gordon Wasson, which led to the rediscovery of the sacred mushrooms in Mexico in 1955 (Wasson and Wasson 1957). He has long been a leading exponent of the field in his native Mexico, in many respects a living laboratory of ethnobotany. The present volume is a well-produced and sturdily-bound ethnomycological dictionary, featuring some 5500 entries of vulgar names for fungi, of which some 3,400 are Mexican; another 1000 general to Latin America. These entries encompass some 1750 species (70 Phymycetes; 300 Ascomycetes; 800 Basidiomycetes; 450 Deuteromycetes; 8 Myxomycetes; and 115 lichens), and a 45 page appendix lists these by families in alphabetical order, with full author citations (three previous appendices list Mexican ethnic groups and their locations; vulgar- and scientific-name synonymy of plants parasitized by fungi cited in the text; and fungal genera with families). The extensive bibliography gives full references to all citations, and a brief introduction explains the book's structure and source material. Five color paintings (counting the cover illustration; four of which are by Verónica Guzmán) grace this attractive book, basically an alphabetical dictionary, and there are 23 full-page plates with line-drawings of some dozen species each, along with black-and-white and color photographs of especially important species. Each entry gives the vulgar name in boldface, followed by parentheses indicating information on category, geography, and/or ethnic group, then the definition, usually paragraph-length, with bibliographic citations and numerous cross-references to other entries, also in boldface. Each entry is preceded by one of 11 graphic symbols: 1) edible species; 2) poisonous species; 3) sacred (hallucinogenic) mushroom; 4) mushroom of non-sacred ethnomycological import; 5) ethnomedicinal species; 6) species of chemical or biotechnological interest; 7) miscellaneous species; 8) phytoparasitic species; 9) zooparasitic species; 10) entomoparasitic species; and 11) unknown. This superb feature allows one interested in a particular category efficiently to scan the book to cull out nuggets of salient information. Withal, we have here handy access to a wealth of information of interest to ethnobotanists, agronomists, mycologists, phytochemists, anthropologists, and linguists, all of whom owe Guzmán a debt of gratitude for

this painstaking work. Moreover, the book is quite nicely produced at a very modest price — a bibliographic bargain by any measure, and as such is highly recommended.

## LITERATURE CITED

GUZMÁN, GASTÓN. 1983. The Genus *Psilocybe*: A Systematic Revision of the Known Species. J. Cramer, Vaduz, Germany.

WASSON, VALENTINA. P. and R. GORDON WASSON. 1957. Mushrooms, Russia and History (two volumes). Pantheon Books, New York, New York.

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