

BOOK REVIEWS

Mahesh Kumar Adhikari. *Mushrooms of Nepal*. (P.U. Printers, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000.) Pp. 236, 41 coloured photographs, many line drawings and black-and-white figs. Price: EUR 43.

The book can be ordered from Etsuzo Sano, Nakashizu 4-16-19, Sakura-City 285-0843, Japan; e-mail: e_sano@d2.dion.ne.jp.

The mycoflora of Nepal, a remote and not easily accessible country, has been poorly known so far. This book offers a welcome compilation of current knowledge, brought together by the author, and supplemented with his extensive own research. Introductory chapters deal with the phytogeography and climate, followed by an overview of the history of mycology in Nepal so far. The main part of the book is devoted to an annotated list of Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes found in Nepal, giving details on distribution and sometimes substrate, together with references of the records. The genera *Amanita*, *Russula*, and *Lactarius* are treated in more detail with notes on the characters and keys for identification. Also of the Gasteromycetes a key is given to the genera. Chapters are added on ethnomycology, the value of mushrooms for food and trade, and the book concludes with an extensive chapter on mycobiogeography, comparing the mycoflora of Nepal with other regions of the world, ecological factors affecting the mycoflora, and distribution patterns. A few pages are added on conservation and utilization. The coloured photographs are informative, though not always of very good quality. The book is recommended as an important source of information on this region we know so little about.

P.A. Bidaud, X. Carteret, G. Eyssartier, P. Moëgne-Loccoz & P. Reumaux. *Atlas des Cortinaires. Pars XII. Sous-Genre Dermocybe (Fries) Trog. Section Sericeocybe (P.D. Orton) Melot.* (Editions Fédération Mycologique Dauphiné-Savoie, F 74270, Marlioz, France. 2002.) Pp. 627–710. Coloured plates 358–413. Price: unknown. In French.

This is already the 12th volume in this impressive series, and continues in the same way as the previous volumes. It provides notes on the morphology of the specimens studied and microscopical characters, accompanied by nice crayon coloured plates of all the species in section *Sericeocybe* treated. Also, keys are given to the subsections and per subsection to the series and to the stirps. Per stirps a key is given to the species and other taxa. 22 New series and stirps are formally described, 34 new species, varieties, or formae are formally described, and 4 new combinations are made. This volume also gives an index to the species treated in all previous volumes.