

BOOK REVIEWS

D. Moore, M.M. Nauta, S.E. Evans & M. Rotheroe (eds.). *Fungal conservation, Issues and solutions*. (Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK. 2001.) ISBN 0-521-80363-2. Pp. 262, several text-figs. Price: £ 65.—.

Since mycologists have become aware of a significant decline of (macro)fungi in the last century due to environmental pollution and habitat destruction, conservation of fungi has become an important issue. It is not clear, however, whether conservation should be focused on the fungi themselves, the sites, the habitats or the host. This book deals with the various aspects of fungal conservation in different parts of the world. It has its origin in a Symposium organised by the British Mycological Society, complemented by some invited papers to enhance the geographic coverage of the book. In 20 chapters several subjects are dealt with, varying from microfungus diversity in Kenya to management of forest fungi in the USA, from the effects of nature management on grassland fungi in the Netherlands to biodiversity action plans in the UK, from the threats of mushroom cultivation to biodiversity in China to strategies for conservation of fungi in Sicily. A general introduction and a discussion complete the book. The book does not provide ready-made solutions for the conservation of fungi, but it does give useful suggestions about how fungi can be included in conservation projects in a range of circumstances. As such, the book is unique and recommended for all interested in fungal conservation.

R. Watling, J.C. Frankland, A.M. Ainsworth, & S. Isaac. *Tropical Mycology, vol. 1, Macromycetes*. (CABI Publishing, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, United Kingdom. 2002.) Pp. 191, with black-and-white photographs and line-drawings. Price: £ 40.

In the past decades the interest in tropical mycology has greatly increased, in part as a result of extensive biodiversity assessment and conservation programs. The current book is produced from papers presented at the British Mycological Society's symposium held in Liverpool in April 2000. It deals with contributions on taxonomy, ecology, biology, and economic potential of tropical Macromycetes. Contributed papers deal with various topics, such as ectomycorrhizal macromycetes in neotropical oakwoods, rainforest in Africa and Asia; basidiomycetes of the Greater Antilles Project; brown- and black-spored agarics of tropical Mexico with particular reference to *Gymnopilus*; taxonomy, ecology and biology of polypores in Indonesia and Taiwan; production of lignolytic enzymes by tropical higher fungi from Ecuador; laboratory studies with *Leucoagaricus* and attine ants; conservation of mycodiversity in India; mushroom collecting in Tanzania and Hunan (Southern China) in connection with inherited wisdom and folklore of two different cultures, and finally the developmental, physiological and environmental aspects of commercially grown mushrooms in the tropics. This collection of papers reflects up-to-date knowledge of this very important group of organisms in endangered habitats.