

LIBRI NOVI

CLYDE M. CHRISTENSEN: Common fleshy fungi.

Burgess Publishing Company Minneapolis, Minn. pp. 237, num. figs. 3rd. edition. 1965 Price \$3.75.

One's immediate reaction to this publication is one of disappointment. The covers show color photographs of nine species, but there are no color illustrations in the text. The black and white photos have been so reduced in size that the reproductions are of little aid in the recognition of species. The information given in the descriptions is inadequate to compensate for the loss of educational impact of the illustrations. The nomenclature is that of the past century, the name of SINGER, for instance, does not even occur in the bibliography. Finally, I know of no other book of a popular nature with more misidentifications for the total number of species included. The following is a partial list:

- p. 20 *A. phalloides* – the description seems to be of *A. brunnescens*.
- p. 22 *A. verna* – almost certainly *A. bisporigera* but this is not important. What is important is that neither the annulus nor the volva show in the photograph. This is a deadly poisonous common species, and should be illustrated to show the diagnostic characters given in the description.
- p. 28–36 *Clitocybe* species: as a specialist on agarics I can not be sure that any of those illustrated are correctly identified. The needed information is not there.
- p. 38 *Collybia butyracea* – clearly *Collybia dryophila*
Collybia confluens – not recognizable from the photo.
- p. 40 *Collybia hariolorum* – clearly not that species.
- p. 45–46 *Hygrophorus eburneus* – the description clearly indicates another species. The photo could be one of several.
- p. 46 *Hygrophorus pratensis* – clearly a member of the genus *Laccaria*.
- p. 71 *Mycena atroalba* – the photo and description do not give enough data for an identification.
- p. 76 *Panus strigosus* – *Pleurotus sapidus* – photographs of the same cluster, each taken from a different angle seem to have been used here. The one cluster certainly does not represent two species.
- p. 79–84 *Russula* – this material would have been better left out.
Russula nigricans for instance does not have crowded gills.
- p. 97 *Flammula sapinea* is very likely *Flammula spumosa* (*Pholiota* in present day mycology).
- p. 98 *Flammula spumosa* – The picture is not of this species but data are insufficient for identification.
- p. 100–102 *Inocybe*: Data not sufficient to allow even an expert to identify species in this genus, so a beginner would have no chance at all in reaching a correct conclusion.
- p. 123 *Agaricus abruptibulba* – the photo does not show enough of the characters to enable the user to make a correct identification.
- p. 125 *Agaricus placomyces* – the photo shows white specimens, the description calls for dark brown. The photo could be *A. abruptibulbus*.
- p. 134 *Coprinus ephemerus* – clearly misidentified.
- p. 149 *Fomes pini* – this is not necessarily a misidentification, but no one would recognize the species from the photo.
- p. 159 *Polyporus dryophilus* – the photo is upside down.
- p. 177 *Boletinus pictus* – the photograph resembles *Fuscoboletinus spectabilis* more than *Suillus pictus*.
- p. 179 *Boletus luteus* – this almost certainly is *Suillus grevillei*.
- p. 180 *Boletus retipes* – clearly *Leccinum scabrum* or a closely related species.

- p. 183 *Clavaria pistillaris* – *Clavariadelphus ligula*.
p. 188 *Craterellus pistillaris* – *Clavariadelphus truncatus*.
p. 224 *Peziza badia* – clearly not *P. badia* as the latter is not white.

CHRISTENSEN is a good photographer and it is most unfortunate that his photographs have been so poorly reproduced at such great reduction from natural size that nearly all educational impact has been lost. It is also most unfortunate that the combination of archaic nomenclature, incomplete descriptive data, poor visual aids, and so many outright misidentifications should have been all brought together under this one title.

ALEXANDER H. SMITH

University of Michigan
University Herbarium
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

CHMEL, L.: Štúdiá o epidemiológii a experimentálnej terapii dermatomykóz. (Studies on the epidemiology and experimental therapy of dermatomycoses). 286 pp. Illustrated. Czech. Ed. Vydavateľ'stvo Slovenskej Akadémie Vied, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, 1964. Price: Kčs 37.— (With extensive summaries in Russian and in English).

This comprehensive work reflects the intensive study and the fruits of assiduous endeavor of many years on investigations into the epidemiology and experimental therapy of the dermatomycoses of the skin and its appendages. The basic incentive for the study was the increase of dermatomycoses in Czechoslovakia during the first years after the second World War. Thus, the author gives an analysis of the epidemiological situation of dermatomycoses and a study of the dynamics of the mycotic flora during the years 1942—1961. Geographic distribution of the causative agents of trichophytosis, microsporosis and favus is presented and an epidemiologic analysis of the situation of dermatomycoses and study of the dynamics of their dissemination in Slovakia is given. The author discusses the causes of the dissemination of *T. gypsum* and *T. faviforme* in the agricultural population as well as the appearance of *T. rosaceum* in Slovakia as a consequence of military operations. The first part of this study closes with a discussion of dermatomycoses from the occupational point of view. The second part of the work deals with the experimental studies concerning the therapy of dermatomycoses. This excellent study is an outstanding contribution not only to the Slavic but also, at the same time, to the world mycological literature. Since this publication coincides with the 50th birthday of the author, we extend to him our heartfelt congratulation on both accounts.

TIBOR BENEDEK