BOOK REVIEW


This publication represents the proceedings of a symposium by this title organized and sponsored by the Second International Mycological Congress, 27 August-3 September 1977 at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. These proceedings give a comprehensive account of current research on mutualistic and commensalistic entomogenous fungi.

The book is divided into 10 chapters with specialists treating various fungus-insect interrelationships. A general overview is provided in the first chapter (H. C. Whisler) with subsequent chapters dealing with mutualistic fungi and ants (N. A. Weber), ambrosia beetles (D. M. Norris and L. T. Kok), siricid wood wasps (J. L. Madden and M. P. Coutts), Anobiidae (G. Jurzitza) and the Macrotermitinae (L. R. Batra and S. W. T. Batra), and commensalism in the Trichomycetes (S. T. Moss) and in the Laboulbeniales (I. I. Tavares). The editor provides a concluding chapter summarizing the proceedings, noting the economic importance of symbionts, and discussing the direction of future research and some problems and obstacles encountered in this field.

As might be expected from proceedings of a symposium, the book is not all inclusive. Many important groups such as the Septobasidiales, Myriangiales, and interesting Fungi Imperfecti found in association with scale insects and other plant inhabitants are missing. Most contributors, however, have prepared interesting chapters with excellent photographic plates and line drawings. Most chapters have an extensive bibliography and the editor has provided a comprehensive index of authors and a subject index.

The text is printed in relatively large, easily read type. The legends and tables are clear and concise and chapter and paragraph headings are well delineated. There appears to be a minimum of errors, and the editor, authors, and publishers are to be complimented for producing a quality text. Teachers of mycology and insect pathology will find the text extremely useful. Students, especially those interested in biocontrol of insects, will also find it a valuable book.—JAMES W. KIMBROUGH, Department of Botany, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.