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## Book review

D. L. Hawksworth: *Mycologist's Handbook*. An introduction to the principles of taxonomy and nomenclature in the fungi and lichens. 231 pp., 22 figures. Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England, 1974. Obtainable from Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Royal, Slough, SL2 3BN, England. Price £ 5.50 cased, £ 2.75 paperback.

The 'Mycologist's Handbook' is as a completely rearranged, revised version of Bisby's 'An Introduction to the Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Fungi'. It is a source of background information and a guide to the literature in fungal taxonomy (including lichens). It contains chapters on collecting and preservation (herbaria, culturing) – taxonomic ranks – naming, describing and publishing (i.a. illustrating, monographs and revisions, keys, literature) – nomenclature – authors of fungi and lichens (with abbreviations) – title abbreviations of classic publications – a glossary to nomenclatural terms – references (14 pp.) and an index.

The book reflects the guiding principles of the taxonomic work carried out at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute at Kew: preservation and careful examination of numerous herbarium specimens and, sometimes, cultures and, whenever possible, comparison with type specimens – thorough documentation of the literature – naming in strict adherence to the Code of Nomenclature – careful editing of manuscripts with a good deal of standardization. Particularly remarkable are the instructions for preparation of manuscripts, a reproduction of all but four articles of the Botanical Code of Nomenclature (as far as relevant to Fungi) with newly chosen mycological and lichenological examples, and the most complete list available of mycological authors with the location of their herbaria.

The text is very concise, perhaps sometimes too much so, and much of the information must be sought in the comprehensive and up-to-date literature references. To make full use of the book, the reader must have a large library at hand. It would also have been desirable to include a list of publications referring to larger taxonomic monographs, check-lists, etc., since none of those available is really up-to-date. The book is carefully prepared and only a few minor errors were discovered. In addition to taxonomic mycological work, the handbook will also be invaluable in composing and editing mycological publications.

W. Gams

Alfred Kaestner: *Lehrbuch der speziellen Zoologie*. Band I: Wirbellose. Teil 3B, p. 229–905, 405 figs. with Index of part 3A en B. Cloth bound. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena 1973. Price 35 Mark.

In this part of the textbook a good introduction to general biology and taxonomy of insects is given. The book is descriptive and contains a wealth of facts about various aspects of insect biology in systematic arrangement. For those interested in a certain group of insects this is an advantage, but it limits the usefulness of the book for insect ecologists and physiologists since the information is scattered over many chapters.

The reference list of 30 pages, according to orders of insects, is up-to-date. It is well illustrated with figures derived from literature. Many are from well-known textbooks like those of H. Weber.

The book will be useful for applied entomologists and entomologists who need a first introduction into a certain group of insects. The price is low.

G. W. Ankersmit