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## International Conference “Fungi and Algae in Biocenoses—2006”

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The International Conference “Fungi and Algae in Biocenoses—2006” was held from January 31 to February 3, 2006 at the Biological Faculty of M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. The Organizing Committee of the Conference included Prof. A.N. Likhachev, Cand. Sci. (Biol.); S.N. Elanskii, Cand. Sci. (Biol.); M.A. Golobova, A.A. Georgiev, D.I. Milyutina; and the Conference Chairperson, Prof. Yu.T. D'yakov, Head of the Mycology and Algology Department. The conference was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Biological Faculty of Moscow State University.

In his Opening Address, Prof. D'yakov dealt with the main directions of scientific research considered at the conference, emphasized the diversity of biological species to be discussed and the recently initiated areas of mucological and algological research. A total of 142 presentations were on the Conference agenda; over 400 participants attended the Conference, including scientists from Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus.

The presentations were dedicated to the role of anti-oxidants in plant–fungus relationships (O.S. Abramova), the species diversity of fungi (N.A. Aitkhozhina); the interactions of phytopathogenic fungi and plants (N.A. Aitkhozhina et al.); the formation of *Phytophthora* micromycete complexes in various forest types (Yu.I. Golubtsova); the interactions of fungi, microorganisms, and plants (F.K. Alimova et al.); the interactions of agaricoid basidiomycetes, mycophilic fungi, and insects (I.I. Sidorova); the mutual influence of plants and fungi in biocenoses (T.P. Yurina and S.N. Lekomtseva); the relationships among fungi that cause destruction of plants (L.G. Seraya et al.); the fungus–plant interactions during the remediation of oil-polluted natural environments (V.A. Terekhova et al.); the relationships between epiphyte lichens and trees in parks (O.V. Likhacheva et al.); macromycete biota (A.A. Amiryan); the role of biotic factors in fruit formation (L.V. Garibova); and the systematics of fungi (S.A. Voityuk).

Novel concepts on associations of plants, fungi, algae, and bacteria were discussed in a series of reports that were specifically concerned with organelle-level parasitism occurring in a number of fungi and algae that infect taxonomically related host species (Yu.T. D'yakov), ultrastructural plasticity of cyanobacteria in asso-

ciations with plants (O.I. Baulina), and associative symbiology (on the example of plant symbioses, E.S. Lobakova).

Some of the presentations dealt with applied research areas including fungal pathogens of seed potatoes (K.M. Grigoryan et al.), accumulation of technogenic substances by epiphyte lichens (A.N. Zhidkov), crop rotation as an efficient strategy to counteract potato infections (V.N. Zeiruk), the identification of potato brown rot pathogens (K.M. Grigoryan and V.V. Amirkhanyan), fungal infections of kidney bean plants in the Tomsk oblast (Yu.A. Chikin and S.N. Mikhailova), the spread of *Alternaria alternata* in the areas under crops in the Chelyabinsk oblast and the measures required for restoring the crops affected by it (G.A. Golovina), the prevention and control of phytopathogen problems in potato seed-farming (B.V. Anisimov), the diagnostics of plant resistance to various fungi of the genus *Fusarium* (V.S. Anokhina et al.), and other topics.

A number of the presentations focused on biotechnological developments including the following topics: *Lentinus edodes*, a species to be used for industrial purposes (A.D. Dvornina, and E. Dvornina); the heterothallism of mucorous fungi (E.P. Feofilova); and the efficiency of chitosan-based biological preparations in protecting potato plants from phytopathogens (Z.P. Kotova and L.A. Kuznetsova).

Some conference presentations were of medical interest. For instance, the report by T.M. Zheltikova et al. dealt with mycogenic allergens and allergy, and that by A.D. Avakyan focused on the stress-preventing effect of the culture fluid of Kombucha.

We should emphasize the high level of the scientific works and research methods presented at the conference. The presentations dealt with modern research areas, contained novel data, and were of indisputable practical importance. They were of much interest to the participants. The conference attracted a large scientific audience and promoted communication among scientists. The collection of the conference presentations may be published as a valuable guidebook for mycologists, microbiologists, algologists, biochemists, and biotechnologists.