

Frontiers in Basidiomycote Mycology

Edited by

Reinhard AGERER, München
Meike PIEPENBRING, Frankfurt
Paul BLANZ, Graz

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Editors: Prof. Dr. Reinahrd Agerer
University of München, Department Biology and GeoBio-Center^{LMU},
Biodiversity Research: Systematic Mycology
Menzinger Str. 68
D – 80638 München

Prof. Dr. Meike Piepenbring
J. W. Goethe-Universität, Botanisches Institut
Siesmayerstr. 70
60323 Frankfurt am Main

Prof. Dr. Paul Blanz
Botanisches Institut
Holteigasse 6
A – 8010 Graz

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Preface

During our planning of a Festschrift, i.e., a commemorative publication, in honour of Prof. Dr. Franz Oberwinkler on the occasion of his 65 birthday, we decided to use the Basidiomycota as the basis for a series of articles. For more than 40 years, Franz Oberwinkler has studied the morphology, ecology, and phylogeny of the Basidiomycota. He has established a strong mycological research group at the University of Tübingen introducing many students into this field of research. Some of these students continue to work in this area of study after leaving the University of Tübingen for positions at other universities or other research institutions in Germany or abroad. Professor Oberwinkler has also collaborated in the study of the basidiomycota with colleagues in many parts of the world, especially in North America and East Asia.

We have invited Franz Oberwinkler's former students and colleagues who have cooperated and published with him to contribute to this Festschrift. This resulted in a volume composed of articles covering many issues of the Basidiomycota. Three general fields of research can be outlined, although some contributions could be grouped in a different area. Many characters have been studied, i.e. morphology, anatomy, ultrastructure and DNA sequences.

Studies on biodiversity, classification and phylogeny form the first part. We have placed contributions on the taxonomy of Ustilaginomycetes and Urediniomycetes at the beginning of this part and finished it with Hymenomycetes. Yeasts have been granted a favourite position.

A second set of articles covers ecology and interaction with other organisms, from parasitic species to symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi. Among the articles on parasitic Basidiomycota those on rust and smut fungi are predominant. The mycorrhizal fungi are treated with respect to comparing the symbiotic system in vitro and in vivo, i.e., on disturbed and undisturbed substrate.

Edible fungi represent a rather short third focus on Basidiomycota. A report of edible fungi from Yunnan, China, is presented and the processing of *Auricularia polytricha* for clinical and dietary use in Taiwan is described.

Franz Oberwinkler has studied many of these aspects himself for years and published numerous papers on these subjects. We wish him many more years to continue his studies and to further explore the systematics and evolution of fungi in general and the Basidiomycota in particular.

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Reinhard Agerer
Meike Piepenbring
Paul Blanz

