

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Ten years ago, when we first set out to write this book, we aimed to provide a broad understanding of the biology of fungi and the biological systems to which fungi contribute. We hoped the book that would emerge would provide an all-round view of fungal biology, with a scope ranging over ecology, evolution, diversity, cell biology, genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, genomics and bioinformatics. We were very pleased, and proud, of the book that was published in 2011. That satisfaction was increased enormously when the book was acclaimed around the world by our peers. Reviewers and purchasers alike were appreciative of the broad scope of our text; their reviews included the phrases: 'The *21st Century Guidebook to Fungi* is a game changer ...'; 'Moore, Robson and Trinci have now made fungi accessible to everyone'; 'All you ever wanted to know about fungi: at last: a university level book on fungi to sit next to the classics of cell biology and biochemistry'; 'This remarkably comprehensive volume will be useful to every scientist and educator'.

As well as liking the content, our reviewers also approved of the way the book was organised and written. They commented: 'This is an innovative text, both in its presentation and its organisation'; 'The authors' clear, comprehensible and accurate writing style is just perfect for a textbook'; 'written in a delightful prose, integrating concepts and interdisciplinary knowledge'; 'very user friendly ... making this an outstanding resource'. Overall, the consensus was that the *21st Century Guidebook to Fungi* was: 'a valuable contribution to modernising fungal science education'; 'the best comprehensive mycology text available'. Finally, we were particularly pleased with the *Journal of the American Library Association's* review, which started: 'The content and quality of this book is simply breathtaking!'

But, you will have noticed that time passes, even breathtaking books age and go out of print; and that's what happened to the *21st Century Guidebook to Fungi*. The third printing went out of print in early 2017. In many respects, authors regard their books in much the same way as they view their children, and we couldn't allow our literary offspring to wither and die on the publisher's vine. In the belief that it remains essential to maintain the availability of a textbook of such user-perceived value, we decided to produce this thoroughly updated **second edition** of the *21st Century Guidebook to Fungi*. As the original text was so well received, this second edition is not a major reorganisation. We have taken the opportunity to rearrange a few parts of the text, but the key difference is a **thorough** section-by-section update from mycology of the first decade to represent mycology of the second decade of the twenty-first century and beyond.

All sections have been revised, but several sections deserved more extensive treatment. This applied particularly to the

variety of applications of fungal genome analyses developed in the past 10 years: genomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, metagenomics and several other areas of integrative biology, including but not limited to bioinformatics and computational biology, though we have tried to remain succinct even with these. There were also a few of our own recent publications that warranted proper inclusion; including the mycological alternative interpretation of eukaryote evolution from the book *Fungal Biology in the Origin and Emergence of Life* (Moore, 2013), and some aspects from two other books: *The Algorithmic Fungus* (Moore & Meškauskas, 2017) and *Fungiflex: The Untold Story* (Moore & Novak Frazer, 2017).

One intended omission from the second edition is the compact disc (CD) that was included with the first edition. Although this was widely appreciated as a valuable accessory at the time, we believe that a CD format is no longer appropriate, simply because CD players are so rarely encountered today. Instead, with the second edition, we are expanding the online representation of the *21st Century Guidebook to Fungi*.

In writing the second edition, we have continued our intention to show Kingdom *Fungi* as a **biological system** with its own intrinsic interest rather than as a diverse group of individually fascinating, but still separate, organisms. In addition, we have maintained our model of a tourist guide to a holiday destination. Tourist guides do not attempt a comprehensive depiction of a location, but they bring attention to a broad range of places you might visit, describe enough for you to decide if you are interested, and tell you how to get there. We called this a *Guidebook* because we have always been aware of the impossibility of writing a comprehensive, monographic treatment of an entire kingdom, so each section of your *Guidebook to Fungi* directs you to an interesting aspect of fungal biology and, perhaps unusually for a textbook, provides references to external resources that will provide more information; and there are more references in the second edition.

These references include internet URLs or DOI URLs. The acronym DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier, which uniquely identifies where an electronic document (or another electronic object) can be found on the internet and remains fixed. Other information about a document may change over time, including where to find it, but its DOI will not change and will always direct you to the original electronic document. To access one of these references, enter the DOI URL into your browser and you will be taken to the document on the website of the original publisher. Almost always you will have free access to the abstract or summary of the article, and an increasing number of publishers provide free access to the full text. But even for those that do not provide free access, if your institution maintains a subscription

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We want to restate our sincere thanks to our families for their help and understanding while we produced this text, and all those students of ours who have made constructive comments on this *Guidebook* as it developed over the years. We also thank Dr Dominic Lewis, our Commissioning Editor, and the rest of the Cambridge University Press staff and contractors (especially Charlie Howell in Cambridge, and Rajeswari Azayecoche at Integra Software Services) for all their efforts on our behalf in achieving the publication of this book. We extend our appreciation to those anonymous reviewers of the first draft, and Professor David L. Hawksworth CBE for his comments on the proof, all of whose suggestions have so improved the final text.

Special thanks go to Professor Paul S. Dyer, School of Life Sciences, University of Nottingham, who was so insistent that we do something about the *21st Century Guidebook to Fungi* going out of print that we were driven to write this second edition. We also restate our gratitude to the many other friends and colleagues who supplied illustrations used in this book: Professor M. Catherine Aime, Louisiana State University; Dr G. W. Beakes, Newcastle University; Professor Meredith Blackwell, Louisiana State University; Dr Manfred Binder, Clark University; Professor C. Kevin Boyce, University of Chicago; Professor Jacques Brodeur, Université de Montréal; Professor Mark Brundrett, University of Western Australia; James Burn, emapsite.com sales team, Reading; Sheila and Jack Fisher, Chichester; Forestry Images, <http://www.forestryimages.org>; Dr Elizabeth Frieders, University of Wisconsin-Platteville; Professor G.M. Gadd FRSE, University of Dundee; Dr Daniel Henk, Imperial College; Professor David S. Hibbett, Clark University; Dr Kentaro Hosaka, National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan; Dr Carol Hotton, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC; Dr E. M. Hueber, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC; Dr Timothy Y. James, University of Michigan; Dr P. R. Johnston, Landcare Research, New Zealand; Tom Jorstad, Smithsonian Institution; Pamela Kaminski, <http://pkaminski.homestead.com>; Dr Bryce Kendrick, <http://www.mycology.com>; Geoffrey Kibby, *Field Mycology*; Dr Cletus P. Kurtzman, USDA/ARS Peoria; Dr Roselyne Labbé, Agriculture and

Agri-Food Canada; Dr Marc-André Lachance, Western Ontario University; Professor Karl-Henrik Larsson, Göteborg University; Dr Heino Lepp, Australian National Botanical Gardens; Dr Peter M. Letcher, University of Alabama; Professor Xingzhong Liu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing; Dr Mark Loftus, Sylvan Inc, PA, USA; Dr Joyce E. Longcore, University of Maine; Dr P. Brandon Matheny, University of Tennessee; Dr Audrius Meškauskas, Switzerland; Professor Steven L. Miller, University of Wyoming; Dr Randy Molina, *Mycorrhiza* and USDA Forest Service; Dr Jean-Marc Moncalvo, Royal Ontario Museum and University of Toronto; Elizabeth Moore, Stockport; NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute; Dr Stephen F. Nelsen, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Professor Birgit Nordbring-Hertz, Lund University; Dr Lily Novak Frazer, University Hospital of South Manchester; Dr Ingo Nuss, Mintraching-Sengkofen, Germany; Dr Kerry O'Donnell, USDA/ARS Peoria; Dr Fritz Oehl, ART Zürich; Dr Lise Øvreås, University of Bergen; Mary Parrish, Smithsonian Institution; Dr Jens H. Petersen, University of Aarhus; Professor Nick D. Read, Institute of Cell Biology, University of Edinburgh; Professor Dirk Redecker, INRA/Université de Bourgogne; Professor Karl Ritz, Cranfield University; Dr Carmen Sánchez, Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala México; Professor Marc-André Selsos, Université de Montpellier II; Dr Sabrina Setaro, Wake Forest University; Dr Karen Snetselaar, *Mycologia*, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia; Malcolm Storey, <http://www.bioimages.org>; Professor Junta Sugiyama, TechnoSuruga Co. Ltd, Tokyo; Dr Sung-Oui Suh, American Type Culture Collection; Mr John L. Taylor, Manchester; Professor Vigdis Torsvik, University of Bergen; Professor John Webster, University of Exeter; Dr Alexander Weir, SUNY-ESF, New York; Professor Mark M. White, Boise State University; Alex Wild Photography, Illinois; Ence Yang, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing.

We must end this Preface on an unwelcome sad note: the text of this second edition was reaching completion and a kind and gentle friend, greatly valued colleague and co-author, Geoffrey David Robson, died suddenly on 15 May 2001. This volume is dedicated to his memory as a mycological distinction.

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