

Preface

Since the writing of the first edition of *Fungi in Ecosystem Processes*, much more literature has been published on many of the subjects I attempted to cover; thus, this edition is an update of the material content of the first. During the intervening years between editions, I was privileged to work with Peter Oudemans and Jim White in editing the third edition of *The Fungal Community* (2005) and have developed additional mycological courses with them. In this edition, therefore, I have expanded the section on plant pathogens, invasive species, and insect fungal interactions and have added a new section on fungi in the built environment. I am grateful to my undergraduate and graduate students for their interest in discussing fungal interactions with their environment, my research group for carrying many of my oddball ideas into research questions, and especially to a group of graduate students (Kristi Troster, Jonelle Scardino, and Alex Duffy) for their help in gathering new material for this edition as part of their independent studies.

The main thrust of this book follows the great discussions I had as a graduate student and beyond with Alan Rayner, who led me to believe that fungi rule the world. My view of this has changed little, and the more I delve into the world of mycology the greater the fascination I have with their diversity of function and interactions with other organisms. I hope to impart a small part of this enthusiasm to the readers of this book.

REFERENCE

- Dighton, J., J. F. White Jr., and P. Oudemans. (eds.) 2005. *The Fungal Community: Its Organization and Role in the Ecosystem*. CRC Press. 936 pp.