

Preface to the Second Edition

The second edition of 'The Fungi' continues to be a comprehensive text for both undergraduate and postgraduate students of Botany, Agriculture, Forestry, Microbiology, Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology. My intent was to revise and refine the earlier text so that the students could read with interest and pleasure, and understand it more efficiently. In view of this, I have enlarged some of the previous topics and have added short accounts of several new ones. Although this edition is larger than the first, I have tried my best to keep the book as concise as possible.

In this edition, the text has been fully updated by considering the recent developments in mycology. Each of the earlier six chapters have been expanded with new information and a fair number of figures have been added. Changes in some of the previous figures have also been made to amplify the narrative. In addition, a seventh chapter on the conservation of fungal diversity whose importance has come to be appreciated in the last two decades has been incorporated. The glossary, which is often used to quickly find a definition has been extended. The questions for thought and search for knowledge have been doubled. Their answers are all to be found in the text, and so are not provided separately. Further, a number of multiple choice questions have been provided, whose solutions are given at the end.

In a book of this size and scope, it is impossible to deal with all the relevant facts in detail, and therefore many references have been added in this edition. It is hoped that readers will refer to these in order to broaden their knowledge. For convenience, details of these references are given in appendix.

An attempt has also been made to furnish some of the important resource sites for searching information pertaining to fungal organisms. These sites may prove quite useful for students, teachers, researchers and others who are interested in this field.

I hope that the students enjoy reading this book as much as I have enjoyed writing it. The handy format and reasonable price should also prove a great attraction for its readers.

Suggestions for improvement from users are welcome.

Geeta Sumbali

2010

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2005

Preface to the First Edition

This book is intended for the students pursuing graduation and post graduation in Botany, Agriculture, Forestry, Microbiology, Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology. The main purpose of this book is to acquaint the inquisitive student with a blend of traditional and modern concepts about the understanding of fungi. Due emphasis has been given to the life cycles of important representative genera with the help of explanatory illustrations which will prove of great help to the beginner.

The book has been drafted into six chapters in a very lucid and concise manner. The first chapter is primarily an introduction, providing a foundation for the descriptions that follow. Second, third and fourth chapters are fully devoted to occurrence, morphological features, classification and reproduction of various genera belonging to twelve major classes of fungi. All such groups of fungi traditionally studied by mycologists have been retained in this book. The number of references cited are limited in order to avoid disrupting the narrative text. Keys to the orders and families have been given wherever necessary. The fifth chapter of the book deals with the significance of the fascinating fungal diversity. Their role in maintenance of environmental quality and in biotechnology have been emphasized. The sixth chapter explains the various approaches used for culturing and preservation of fungi. It has been my endeavour to maintain the clarity of explanation as culturing and preservation have always contributed to the better understanding of fungi and their further exploitation.

The appendix provides an extensive glossary defining the mycological terms used in the text. A series of questions have been provided which will act as a stimulus to extend the quest for fungi. In addition, chronology of chief events, author index, organisms and taxa index have also been provided for the convenience of students.

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