



The rhythm of life on Earth includes several strong themes contributed by Kingdom Fungi. So why are fungi ignored when theorists ponder the origin of life?

Casting aside common theories that life originated in an oceanic primeval soup, in a deep, hot place, or even in a warm little pond, this is a mycological perspective on the emergence of life on Earth. The author traces the crucial role played by the first biofilms – products of aerosols, storms, volcanic plumes and rainout from a turbulent atmosphere – which formed in volcanic caves 4 billion years ago. Moore describes how these biofilms contributed to the formation of the first prokaryotic cells, and later, to unicellular stem eukaryotes, highlighting the role of the fungal grade of organisation in the evolution of higher organisms. Based on the latest research, this is a unique account of the origin of life and its evolutionary diversity to the present day.

"A wonderful introduction to this wide and exciting subject, which ensures accessibility to non-specialist readers and introduces key features of fungal biology... A fascinating read."

J. L. Faull, *Senior Lecturer in Microbiology, Birkbeck University of London, UK*

"This rich and compelling story provides a crucial mycological perspective on some of the biggest questions in modern biology."

Nicholas Money, *Professor of Botany, Miami University of Ohio, USA*

Cover illustration (front): © Arctic-Images / SuperStock; (back): © Ron Dahlquist / SuperStock. Life arose on a turbulent Earth. More storms from shorter days, closer Moon, denser atmosphere, worldwide warm shallow ocean and scattered volcanic islands with which ocean waves collided after thousands of uninterrupted miles.

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