

Book Review

N.E. Nanenga-Bremekamp. *A Guide to Temperate Myxomycetes*. Bisporess Ltd., Bristol, 1991. 409 pp. ISBN 0948737-12-3

This is a welcome attempt to present the abundant knowledge available on Myxomycetes. Although the book is a translation of the author's Dutch book on Myxomycetes of Netherland (1974) with the two supplements (1979 and 1983), the present book is a significant contribution to English-speaking mycologists. The Myxomycetes or Slime Moulds covered in this book are, needless to say, not confined to Netherland only, but are widely distributed throughout Europe, the Mediterranean, and many species are found in North America as well.

The text is divided into a number of chapters which provide a resume of previous explorations. The introductory chapter includes the life cycle, morphology of fructification, collecting, taxonomy keys to genera and species, and includes numerous figures of fruiting bodies, capillitia, spores, etc., as well as geographical features and ecology. The other chapters follow, arranged by classification of orders, families, genera and species. A systematic analysis of about 500 species that belong to 55 genera and 16 families of Myxomycetes are given in detail. The description and comments are rich, based on the author's observations. An appendix lists all the species which are not fully described in this book.

One does not have to be a Myxomycetist to enjoy this book and reading it should prove a delightful experience for any person interested in biology in general.

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