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BOOK REVIEW

WEBER, D. J., HESS, W. M. (ed.): **The Fungal Spore. Form and Function.** — A Wiley-Interscience Publ., New York—London—Sydney—Toronto 1976. 895 pp., £ 16.75, \$ 33.30.

This book makes an important contribution to ultrastructural and biochemical aspects of fungal spores. The book is based on the Second International Fungal Spore Symposium held at the Brigham Young University, 1974, which synthesized and summarized all that is known about the form and function of dormant and germinated fungal spores. The scanning electron micrographs of structures, chemical composition, physical properties and biochemical research of fungal spores are included in this valuable volume.

The book is divided into five sections. The first section "Dormancy and activation of fungal spores" include three chapters and describes the dormant spores, self-inhibitors and activators of fungal spore germination. In the second section "Germination of fungal spores" with six chapters, the carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism during spore germination as well as the studies of nucleic acids, organelle changes during fungal spore germination, and the fine structure of cell walls, especially of fungal spores and their changes during germination, are discussed. The most comprehensive section "Form and function of fungal spores" with eight chapters deals with resistant structures in the *Myxomycetes*, form and function of spores of *Chytridiomycetes*, *Zygomycetes*, *Oomycetes*, *Basidiomycetes*, *Ascomycetes* and form and function of conidia, especially of imperfect fungi, as related to their development. In the smallest section "Workshop" in the chapter "Fossil fungal spores" the paleoecology, paleogeography and phylogenesis of fungal spore types are discussed.

In my opinion, the book is a valuable and very useful source of information because it includes not only research reviews on numerous topics and extensive reviews of the literature, several tables and a number of electron micrographs, but also an outline of future trends in fungal spore research. Many participants of the Symposium suggested the physiology and biochemistry of the spores, the biochemistry and surface structures of spores and the processes of sporogenesis including biochemical and electron microscopy studies and the sporulation to be emphasized at a future symposium.

This voluminous book may be recommended to research workers, not only to mycologists, but also to botanists, microbiologists and agriculturists.

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