Book Reviews

Luchistye Gribki Vysshie Formy (Ray Fungi—Higher Forms). N. A. Krasil'nikov. Institute of Microbiology, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., Izdatelstvo "Nauka," Moscow, U.S.S.R., 1970, 536 p., 6 Rubles, 38 Kopeks.

Although published two years ago and received only recently, this volume warrants the attention of *Actinomycetales* systematists. Many new taxa are described and only a massive teamwork effort could have led to this publication. The first 125 pages cover general information on *Actinomycetales*, ranging from comments on cultural characteristics to chromatography of pigments. The remainder of the volume is reminiscent of *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology* and includes descriptions of many new taxa. There are 21 pages of references to the literature (set up in the curious format wherein most, but not all, Russian authors are listed first). Also, there is an index to the genera (68) and species and subspecific epithets considered. At least 289 new species or new subspecies are described! *Actinoplanales* appears as a new order; *Streptosporangiaceae* and *Planosporaceae* as new families; and *Microtermospora* (*sic*, probably a *lapsus calami*), *Proactinoplanes*, and *Microsporangium* as new genera. In addition, Professor Krasil'nikov has proposed many new combinations for taxa originally described as species of *Streptomyces* Waksman and Henrici. Thus, the confusing double nomenclature for members of this genus continues.

Hopefully, this volume can be translated into English before too long. Its full scientific content will remain unknown until that time. And, hopefully, Professor Krasil'nikov and his associates will make the type strains of each of the new taxa described available to the scientific community. The material in this volume should necessarily be included for consideration for the ninth edition of *Bergey's Manual*. Availability of the cultures would be of inestimable value in this regard.

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World Directory of Collections of Cultures of Microorganisms. S. M. Martin and V. B. D. Skerman, Editors. Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1972, 560 p., \$19.95.

In 1966, the World Federation of Culture Collections, then the Section on Culture Collections, of the International Association of Microbiological Societies began an ambitious three-phase program: (1) a survey of collections maintaining cultures of microorganisms; (2) a listing of the names of species held in these collections; and (3) a catalogue of the information recorded in each collection on the species listed. This volume gives the information collected in phases 1 and 2.

The names and addresses of 329 collections in 52 countries are given, along with the names of the directors, information on staff, main interests, numbers of cultures held, and their availability. Collections are numbered arbitrarily and listed numerically. Indexes provide access by country, main groups of organisms, and main interests. A list of personnel is also included.

Although the listing is by no means complete, it seems to include the main large collections and many specialized holdings. A few of the entries give little information on the organisms in the collections (and some collections do not distribute cultures); whether these should be included could be questioned. While addresses should be given in the original language as far as is feasible, there should be some conformity; English equivalents are given for most countries, except Italia and Brasil; German collections appear as from Germany, Federal Republic of Germany, and Bundesrepublik Deutschland, and from German Democratic Republic and Deutsche Demokratische Republik.

The last two-thirds of the volume contains the lists of species maintained (phase 2 of the project). These are grouped as Algae, Bacteria, Fungi, Yeasts, Lichens, Protozoa, Tissue Cultures, and Animal, Bacterial, Insect, and Plant Viruses. Each is prefaced by notes indicating the editor(s) of the list and special problems encountered.

The scientific names are those received, with cross references between the usually accepted name and its synonyms (no synonyms given for lichens and protozoa). In the bacteria, the nomenclatural status has been checked with