

Contents

Preface	4
Introducing fungal life	6
Fungal spores	8
Hyphae	12
Kinship	18
The perfect imperfects	24
Fruiting bodies	34
The Ascomycota	46
Cup fungi	50
Hysterioid fungi	68
Flask fungi	70
Cleistothecial fungi	84
Discolichens	88
Mazaedioid fungi	94
Truffles	98
Laboulbeniomycetes	100
The Basidiomycota	102
Corticoid fungi	106
Stereoid fungi	110
Polypores	115
Boletes	124
Agarics	133
Cyphelloid fungi	146
Chanterelles	150
Tooth fungi	154
Clubs and corals	160
Gasteroid fungi	172
Jelly fungi	182
Rusts and smuts	188
The Zygomycota and other groups	192
Fungal ecology	194
Decomposers	194
Decomposers of debris	196
Wood-decaying fungi	202
Fungi on dung	206
Decaying fungi in other strange places	208
Mycorrhizal fungi	210
Lichenized fungi	218
Parasitic fungi	220
Fungi in the world	223
Where fungi grow	223
Where nothing grows	236
Why we need fungi	238
Fungal future	254
Postscript	259
Index	260