Despite this lapsus, and also the use of the now embarrassingly dated classification from the 1983 edition of the *Dictionary of the Fungi*, the authors have produced a volume that should be widely used by all undergraduates in biology, and not only microbiology.

D. L. Hawksworth

**Briefly Noted**

The Lichen Genus *Peltigera* (Lichenized Ascomycetes) in Alberta. By B. Goffinet & R. Hastings. [Provincial Museum of Alberta Natural History Occasional Paper no. 21]. Pp. vi+54, 91 figures, 2 tables. ISBN 0 7732 1317 1. Price C$9.95, available from: Friends of the Provincial Museum of Alberta Society, Museum Shop c/o Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845–102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 0M6 Canada.

Despite including some of the largest and most well-known lichens, the genus *Peltigera* is taxonomically poorly understood in many parts of the world. In recent years, much critical work has been carried out in Europe by Holtan-Hartwig and Vitikainen, the latter recently having published his revision of European species (*Acta Botanica Fennica* 152: 1–96, 1994). Bernard Goffinet and Ross Hastings here provide the first detailed treatment of the genus from North America that closely follows the taxonomic concepts in train in Europe, although in most cases they have not analysed chemical content. The only difference in concept from Vitikainen’s revision is the acceptance of the depside-containing race of *P. didactyla* as a distinct variety (var. *extenuata*), which is said to further differ from the type variety in several, subtle morphological characteristics. All the species are given a full description with notes on variation, distribution and ecology, supported by photographs depicting habit and diagnostic features, and maps of distribution in Alberta. As many of the species are widely distributed (20 occurring in Europe) this paper is recommended to widely distributed lichenologists.

*Veldgids Korstmossen*. By A. Aptroot & K. van Herk. Utrecht: Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging. 1994. P. 144, 1 figure, 134 colour photographs. ISBN 90 5011 071 1. Price Dfl. 34-50 (excluding postage and packing), from KNNV-Uitgeverij, Oudegracht 237, NL–3511 NK Utrecht, The Netherlands.

This little book is a popular guide to the commonly occurring or conspicuous species in the Netherlands. It begins with short introductory sections on lichen biology, ecology, identification and collection, these being followed by three identification keys, to corticolous, terricolous and saxicolous lichens, respectively. In addition to the 123 lichens treated are the lichenicolous basidiomycete *Athelia arachnoidea* and two ‘pseudolichens’, the non-lichenized fungus *Hysterium pulicare* and the alga *Trentepohlia umbrina*. The entry for each lichen includes a brief description, a comparison with similar species, and notes on ecology.

With the text being in Dutch, the potentially appealing feature of this book to a wider audience is the large number of colour plates. Unfortunately many of these have been poorly repro-duced and have an unnaturally blue or mauve cast, some particularly bad examples being those of *Cladonia coniocraea* (thus looking more like *C. macilenta*), *Haematomma ochroleucon*, *Lecidella elaeochroma*, *Lecidella scabra*, *Pertusaria cocodes*, *Pyrrophora querne* and *Trapelia coarctata*. Several of the photographs depict immature or abnormally developed specimens (but perhaps not so in The Netherlands?), e.g. *Cladonia coniocraea* (lacking podetia), *C. glauca* (unusually squamulose morph), *Hypogymnia tubulosa*, *Parmelia sulcata*, and *Usnea subfloridana*. Also, a few identifications appear suspect: *Bacidia arnoldiana* (?*Lecanora conizaeoides* attacked by *Athelia arachnoidea*), *Cladonia chlorophaea* (?*C. pyxidata*), *C. gracilis* in plate 40 (?*C. furcata*), *Lecanora albescens* (?another member of the *L. dispersa* complex). Several of the photographs depict immature or abnormally developed specimens (but perhaps not so in The Netherlands?), e.g. *Cladonia coniocraea* (lacking podetia), *C. glauca* (unusually squamulose morph), *Hypogymnia tubulosa*, *Parmelia sulcata*, and *Usnea subfloridana*. Also, a few identifications appear suspect: *Bacidia arnoldiana* (?*Lecanora conizaeoides* attacked by *Athelia arachnoidea*), *Cladonia chlorophaea* (?*C. pyxidata*), *C. gracilis* in plate 40 (?*C. furcata*), *Lecanora albescens* (?another member of the *L. dispersa* complex).

Books popularizing lichens are always welcomed, but it saddens me not to widely recommend this one. Perhaps the authors can persuade the publisher to reprint with stricter control over colour reproduction . . .

*Checklist of Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland*. By O. W. Purvis, B. J. Coppins & P. W. James. London: British Lichen Society. February 1994. Pp. 79. ISBN 0 9523049 1 0. Price £5.50 (including postage and packing) or £3.00 to members of the British Lichen Society, from
This is a corrected and partially updated reprint of *British Society Bulletin* 72 (Supplement) published in 1993. Updated are: the list of references: Appendix 1, listing species not seen in Britain and Ireland this century; and Appendix 3, listing species newly recorded since 1982. A new Appendix 4 gives recent nomenclatural changes that will probably be adopted in a later, full revision of the checklist. With 15 additional taxa, the checklist now comprises 267 genera, 1674 species, 9 subspecies, 41 varieties and 12 forms.