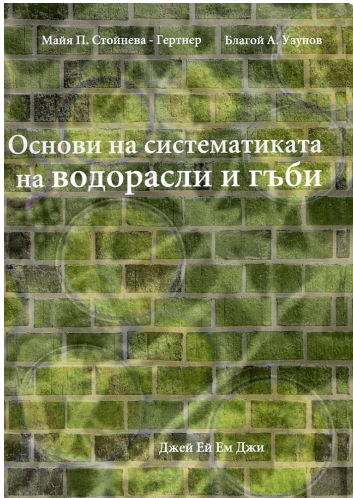


**Book review: Stoyneva-Gärtner M. P. & B. A. Uzunov 2017.
Bases of the Systematics of Algae and Fungi. Publ. House “Dzhey
Ey Em Dzhi”, Sofia, 189 pp. (In Bulgarian)**



The book under review presents a new textbook for all students of biology, issued for different bachelor courses within the field (such as Systematics of Algae and Fungi, Biodiversity of Algae and Fungi, Structure and Biodiversity of Algae and Fungi, General Botany or Botany – part Algae and Fungi, Pharmaceutical Botany – part Algae and Fungi, Algae and Fungi as Economic Resources, *etc.*). The book was intended to serve as a guideline in studying of the two distinct groups of Algae and Fungi. It combines traditional knowledge on their morphology, cytology, reproduction and ecology with modern data and recent classification systems based on ultrastructural data and molecular-genetical studies. It is obvious that the concise title of

any students' handbook cannot reflect fully the diversity of taxonomic views on the organisms under consideration. Therefore, it is important to point out that the present guide contains a special chapter, in which the peculiarities of both groups are outlined. This chapter, in a brief, but consistent manner, follows the changing views on the position of Algae and Fungi in different systems of the organic world, starting with the simple division in Plants and Animals and ending with the various multikingdom systems, proposed nowadays on the basis of different taxonomic features and approaches. The colorful summarizing table of these main systems and chosen examples is invaluable for students to navigate throughout this diversity of views, opinions and constant changes. In this regard, it is necessary to highlight the usefulness of the provided historical information on the most influential authors and books, and of the added index of the original names of the authors and their Bulgarian equivalents.

By contrast to the wrong, but widely spread opinion that *systematics* means endless memorization of long lists of Latin names, the authors specifically noted that they *are not supporters of such meaningless memorizing*. This *declaration* is favored by the consecutive introduction of the terminology and by the provided explanations of the origin of each used term, of the main Latin names, and of the logics of their development in relation to the taxonomic hierarchy as well. Such approach is highly appreciated, especially when it is so successfully combined with the original and pictorial, colorful way of presentation of the modern classification

of all big taxonomic groups of Algae and Fungi (incl. Pseudofungi, Slime moulds and Lichens) in series of figures, where all members of the same group are given the same color on a permanent place. Each of these figures points to a specific taxonomic feature (or features) used in modern classifications, thus allowing for an easy comparative study. This is simplified by the fact that the main taxonomic groups are presented in the same way in the figures on the inner parts of the front (Algae) and back (Fungi) covers. The black and white illustrations within the text are the minimum necessary helpful support for its better assimilation.

The language of the book is completely scientific, but easily understandable and the content clearly follows the structure of the lectures of both authors, who prepared the textbook on the basis of their teaching experience of lectures, practical courses and field trips. This experience can also be seen in the reasonable volume of the presented knowledge and in the properly chosen publication format. The linguistic consultations of Prof. DrSc STEFANA DIMITROVA and the reviewer work of Prof. DrSc DIMITAR PEEV further ensure the quality of the new handbook. Last but not least, the interesting cover, in the background of which almost every Bulgarian biologist will easily recognize the specific brick-wall structure of the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, designed by Dipl. Eng. YANA STOYNEVA, shows not only the affiliation of the authors, but in a symbolic way points also on the long process of building of the systematic knowledge – successively, brick upon brick, brick by brick...

Following the classical structure of a book review, which needs to provide some criticism, it has to be suggested to the authors to publish this modern summary of the knowledge on Algae and Fungi in English for broadening its audience.

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