

A taxonomic monograph on officinal *Ganoderma*

Morphological traits of *Ganoderma lucidum* complex. Highlighting *G. tsugae* var. *jannieae*: the current generalization / S.P. Wasser, I.V. Zmitrovich, M.Ya. Didukh, W.A. Spirin, V.F. Malysheva / Eds Solomon P. Wasser & Eviatar Nevo. International Center for Biotechnology and Biodiversity of Fungi, Institute of Evolution, University of Haifa, Israel. A.R.G. Gartner Verlag Kommandit Gesellschaft, FL 9491 Ruggell, **2006**. 187 pp. ISBN 3-906166-49-X, ISBN 978-3-906166-49-0.

The book describes *Ganoderma lucidum* complex (Ganodermataceae, Polyporales) with special attention to *G. tsugae* lineage. An overview of species concepts and species delimitation principles in *Ganoderma lucidum* complex with an emphasis on conifer-inhabiting species, namely, *G. tsugae*, *G. valesiacum*, and *G. carnosum* is given. Taxonomic importance of morphological traits that reflect evolutionary patterns of a group is discussed. Taxonomic status of species attributed to *G. lucidum* complex is considered, based on results of comparative-morphological studies of type specimens of taxa in question, collections from nature localities, and the analysis of literature data. *G. valesiacum* and *G. carnosum* are treated as *G. lucidum* varieties, while *G. tsugae* is maintained as a distinct species. Analysis of data on fine surface morphology of spores retrieved by the means of a scanning electron microscope, showed that *G. tsugae* spores clearly differ from spores of other species of *G. lucidum* complex. A new to science variety of *G. tsugae*, *G. tsugae* var. *jannieae*, based on collections from China is described. For the *G. lucidum* complex taxa distributed in subtropical and temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere, identification keys and species descriptions are given. Furthermore, in view of the biotechnological importance of species belonging to the *G. lucidum* complex, a concise overview of bioactive substances derived from the complex's representatives and their application in healthcare is presented in the Appendix.

[Summary from the book]

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Koeltz Scientific Books, Herrnwaldstr. 6, D-61462 Koenigstein, Germany

E-mail: koeltz@t-online.de

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