

MOLDS, MILDEWS, MUSHROOMS, & MAN

Molds, mildews, and mushrooms are some of the most common groups of a Kingdom of organisms we call the fungi, or technically, the Mycota. Members of this kingdom have a number of unique characteristics; characteristics that force them to live lifestyles that are different from most other organisms. They live in extraordinary places, doing extraordinary things, and as such have a tremendous impact on other creatures that inhabit our planet, especially man. Terrestrial fungi have inhabited the earth for more than 400 million years (Taylor et al. 1992, Nature 357:493-494). To survive and thrive for this long, they must be doing something right,

The purpose of this book is to introduce you to the fungi, to show you how they differ from other organisms, how they are able to live peculiar lifestyles, and how they, in the many roles they play, are both beneficial and detrimental to mankind

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