

Editorial comment—volume 59 of *Fungal Diversity*

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Volume 59 of *Fungal Diversity* is devoted to the myxomycetes (also called plasmodial slime molds or myxogastrids). Since their discovery, myxomycetes have been variously classified as plants, animals or fungi. Because they produce aerial spore-bearing structures that resemble those of certain fungi and also typically occur in some of the same types of ecological situations as fungi, myxomycetes have been traditionally studied by mycologists. Although recent molecular evidence has confirmed that they are amoebozoans (members of the supergroup Amoebozoa) and not fungi, myxomycetes still tend to be studied by individuals whose expertise is in mycology, and papers on the group typically appear in mycological journals. However, so far as the editor knows, the present volume represents the first time that a single issue of a major journal of mycology has been devoted exclusively to papers on myxomycetes. The ten papers included in the volume

consider various aspects of the ecology and distribution of these organisms. Several papers, including those by Wrigley de Basanta et al. (Madagascar), Lado et al. (central Chile) and Kylin et al. (Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia), are the first major studies of myxomycetes carried out in a particular region of the world, whereas the paper by Rollins et al. is the first to report on the assemblages of species associated with different microhabitats in a grassland ecosystem. Other papers address such diverse subjects as biogeography (Estrada-Torres et al.), the species associated with the rather special and clearly defined microhabitat represented by dung (Eliasson), the impact of a colony of birds on the assemblage of myxomycetes present at the same locality (Adamonyte et al.), the correlation of molecular signatures to morphospecies in myxomycetes (Novozhilov et al.) and the responses of myxomycetes to forest disturbance (Rojas and Stephenson).