A Discomycete Monograph. In most spheres of taxonomy it is common knowledge that many of our problems will not be solved until major monographic studies are made on a wide geographic basis. Running quickly through Dr. van Brummelen's world revision of *Ascobolus* and *Saccobolus*,* it is immediately apparent that only revision on a world-wide basis is of real use—for so many of these dung-inhabiting fungi are world-wide in distribution.

In the first part of the work the previous research on this group is summarised. Here the author's conciseness sometimes leads to doubt, for in the section on spore germination it is not quite clear what methods he has used successfully and where he is quoting other's experience. But this is a minor part of the work. The major part is a thoroughly workmanlike monograph. There is a clear conspectus classification of the fungi based primarily on developmental types correlating fairly well, one gathers, with other criteria, artificial keys to the species, good descriptions and enumerations of materials, and exceptionally fine illustrations. But this is more than a formal monograph; Dr. van Brummelen has made a most valuable study of hymenial development in the fruit body of these fungi and has clarified the picture in a way which will influence many studies of discomycetes in the future. His suggestion of using ascus maturation as a reference point in ascoma development seems eminently sensible; the change of terminology from gymnocarpic and angiocarpic to gymnohymenial and cleistohymenial may be an etymological improvement but seems something of a quibble when the older terms have been happily used for a long time without any misunderstanding.

Mycologists have not been slow to respect the quality of the papers and their presentations in "Persoonia". May we hope that we can look forward to a continuous stream of supplementary volumes giving monographs of the high standard of this first one? If so, it heralds a bright outlook for the taxonomy of the fungi.

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* A world monograph of the genera Ascobolus and Saccobolus (Ascomycetes, Pezizales). J. van Brummelen. Persoonia Supplement volume I. 260 pp. 1967. Publ. Rijksherbarium, Leiden, The Netherlands. Price: £5 (US $ 11.50).