

I. Introduction

Many species and some varieties and forms of Myxomycetes have been described or transferred to different genera and families since Martin & Alexopoulos' World monograph (1969). Keys to include these taxa, seem desirable and I have tried to make them. However, they are being published before they are perfect – or they would not be published at all. I have included all the species known to me, some of which I know only from literature, and several unnamed taxa, some of which may represent good species. The latter have usually been given invalid provisional names (given between quotation marks) and are often accompanied by “cf.” to enable the user to compare them with somewhat similar taxa, followed by a note on their distinguishing characters. Several taxa not accepted by Martin & Alexopoulos (1969) [hereinafter abbreviated as M&A (1969)] have been incorporated in the keys as well, usually with a reference to the page on which Martin & Alexopoulos mentioned them. You are expected to decide for yourself whether or not to accept these. Treating such taxa as separate entities draws attention to their existence and sometimes simplifies keying by reducing variability.

The distinctive features of the taxa can be gleaned from the keys, they are augmented with other characters, sometimes with a complete description, following an asterisk (*), which delimits the “choice” part or branch of the key.

Beginning with a key to the subclasses, which are arranged alphabetically, keys follow for the orders (alphabetically sub subclasses), families (alphabetically sub orders) and genera (alphabetically sub families). The figures of the species are arranged alphabetically (including the taxa which are here given provisional names) under their genera. [Nannenga-Bremekamp illustrated, in her publications, many of the species described after M&A (1969), such illustrations are numerous and have not been repeated here, but to help the reader, a reference “icon. in ...” to the number of “*Publications of Nannenga -Bremekamp*”, compiled on pages XX-XXII, has been added].

For references to the original descriptions and synonyms, the user is referred to the monograph by M&A (1969) [the web page www.eumycetozoa.com (Lado, 2005-2021) provides the user with an updated nomenclature of all the myxomycete species, as well as a pdf of the original publication and other related nomenclatural information]. For taxa described or transferred to another genus since that publication [M&A] the user is referred to the list of references on (pp. 551-557). [Nannenga-Bremekamp did not elaborate this list, but an alphabetical list of all references, has been added.]

It is intended that the characters given in the key and the accompanying figure should be sufficient for accurate diagnosis of each taxon. However, you may like to compare your taxa to the figures and descriptions given by M&A (1969), therefore a reference to the pages where the genus is treated in M&A (1969) is given before the key-heading. Only when the taxon is treated in this book under a name other than that used by M&A, a direct reference is given to the page after the name used. There sometimes is also a reference to other more recent monographic treatments, e.g. the monograph on German and Austrian Myxomycetes by Neubert et al. (1993).