

Bessette, A. E., Smith, D. G., and A. R. Bessette 2021. *Polypores and Similar Fungi of Eastern and Central North America (The Corrie Herring Hooks Series).* University of Texas Press. 430 p. Price: Hardcover $65.00, Kindle $61.75. Weight: 3 lb. 5.6 oz. Size: 10¼ x 7½ x 1⅓.

This is a color-illustrated guide for identifying the polypores of eastern and central North America. It is the first large work of its kind since the monograph of *North American Polypores* was published by Gilbertson and Ryvarden in 1986–1987. In earlier polypore books, photographs were often eschewed in favor of technical text and scientific illustrations. This book is written in mostly non-technical language and contains more than 300 color photographs of polypores and similar fungi in their natural settings.

Many polypores can be named on sight but, for others, a microscopical examination is necessary for reaching reliable identifications. This book has 33-pages of dichotomous keys to assist with navigating through field marks and other criteria for determining species. Presently about 500 polypore species are recognized in North America. Of those, this book treats 248 species with descriptions and photographs. As the list of known polypore species in North America continues to expand, the opportunities for discovering unknown and unusual species remains a possibility.

Polypore research is a promising environment today for scientific collaboration amongst amateur and professional mycologists. This book is a practical and user-friendly tool for bridging communication between non-specialists and expert polypore specialists. The lead author of this book, Alan Bessette, is an emeritus professor of biology at Utica College of Syracuse University. He has authored or co-authored more than 20 books.

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