

The use of mushrooms and mushroom cultivation have a long history in human development. During the past decade, mushroom production and research into various aspects of mushroom biology have increased dramatically. This has been due largely to a growing awareness that mushrooms, apart from their delicacy, have a high nutritional value, can serve as a cheap source of protein, and possess important tonic and medicinal properties. In recognition of the expanding scientific and economic importance of mushrooms, the First International Conference on Mushroom Biology and Mushroom Products was held in Hong Kong from 23–26 August 1993. This volume represents an anthology of contributions from the Keynote, Plenary and Round-Table Speakers participating in the Conference.

A wealth of new information encompassing many facets of mushroom biology and mushroom products is to be found in this book. Recent experimental advances have been integrated with existing knowledge by leading investigators in such areas as:

- (1) Fundamental Aspects of Mushroom Biology,
- (2) Mushroom Cultivation and Bioconversion Technology,
- (3) Post-harvest Processing and Quality Control,
- (4) Nutritional and Medicinal Attributes of Mushrooms,
- (5) Future Prospects for Research and Development.

The papers provide an up-to-date account of current research trends and advances in mushroom biology and mushroom products, and highlight some of the problem areas which remain to be resolved.

Mushroom Biology and Mushroom Products will be of interest to mushroom research scientists and growers, as well as to teachers and students of mushroom biology and biotechnology.

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Mushroom Biology — and — *Mushroom Products*

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