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Lichens are symbiotic organisms in which fungi and algae and/or cyanobacteria form an intimate biological union. This diverse group is found in almost all terrestrial habitats from the tropics to polar regions. In this second edition, four completely new chapters cover recent developments in the study of these fascinating organisms, including lichen genetics and sexual reproduction, stress physiology and symbiosis, and the carbon economy and environmental role of lichens. The whole text has been fully updated, with chapters covering anatomical, morphological and developmental aspects; the contribution of the unique secondary metabolites produced by lichens to medicine and the pharmaceutical industry; patterns of lichen photosynthesis and respiration in relation to different environmental conditions; the role of lichens in nitrogen fixation and mineral cycling; and the use of lichens as indicators of air pollution. This is a valuable reference for both students and researchers interested in lichenology.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This completely updated second edition, with four new chapters, will bring any library collection up to date on lichen biology and complement current holdings."

L. Swatzell for Choice

"... provides a wonderfully complete picture of these wonderful hybrid organisms, from their development and physiology to their important ecological roles. This book belongs in all college and university libraries as well as the shelves of those teaching advanced courses in plant biology that in any way touches topics important to lichens (e.g. stress physiology)."

Douglas Darnowski for Plant Science Bulletin

About the Author

Thomas H. Nash III is Professor of Plant Biology in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University. He has over 35 years teaching experience in Ecology, Lichenology and Statistics, and has taught in Austria (Fulbright Fellowship) and conducted research in Australia, Germany (junior and senior von Humboldt Foundation fellowships), Mexico and South America, and the USA. He has co-authored five previous books and over 200 scientific articles.

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