

Agaricoid and boletoid fungi of Russia: the modern country-scale checklist of scientific names based on literature data

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Abstract

The authors of this paper summarize the majority of published data on the distribution of agaricoid and boletoid fungi recorded in Russia, covering the period from 1824 through 2020. A comprehensive list of 6867 scientific names based on 954 publications was compiled for the first time for the whole territory of Russia. All records have been checked through Index Fungorum. The work consists of a review section and five appendices. The review section discusses the intensity of field research and accumulation of data on the distribution of agaricoid and boletoid fungi in Russia, both historically and in its current state. The authors discuss the current state of knowledge on the biodiversity of regions of Russia and point out blank spots, thus providing a reference and an "action plan" for the future. Appendix A presents a list of 6142 taxa unambiguously ascribed to 3246 accepted current names. Appendix B contains 727 names that cannot be ascribed to any accepted current names unequivocally, with reasons given (e.g., no current name, wrong authors' citations, absence from Index Fungorum). Names from both checklists are supplemented with data on the distribution of these taxa within the Russian Federation and references to published records. Appendix C contains a list of accepted current names reported from only one region. Appendix D is an overview of the nearly 200 years of research of agaricoid and boletoid fungi for all regions of Russia. Appendix E is a list of references used for checklists and study history preparation.

Keywords: Agaricomycetes, funga, fungal biodiversity and distribution, review, Russian Federation

Introduction

This study aims to summarize published data on agaricoid and boletoid fungi (Basidiomycota, Agaricomycetes) recorded from the modern territory of Russia (including Crimea). To our knowledge, there is no up-to-date comprehensive

summary of all, or at least the majority of the published data on this group of fungi, which is highly diverse and important, both ecologically and economically.

By “agaricoid and boletoid fungi”, we mean basidiomycete macrofungi with fleshy pileate-stipitate basidiomata and gilled or tubular hymenophore (“agarics and boleti”) (Moser, 1978; Singer, 1986; Knudsen and Vestergaard, 2008, 2012; Halbwachs, Simmel and Bässler, 2016; Sánchez-García et al., 2020). Phylogenetically related cyphelloid, secotoid or gasteroid species as well as groups traditionally treated as “aphyllophoroid” (clavarioid, corticioid, polyporoid, etc.) were omitted. According to modern taxonomical concepts, taxa of this group belong to the Agaricales, Boletales, Gloeophyllales, Hymenochaetales, Polyporales, and Russulales (all orders *pro parte*) (He et al., 2019).

At the moment, literature containing data on the diversity and distribution of “agarics and boleti” in Russia is burdened with too many redundant names for the same organisms. We took on the task of compiling the essential data from numerous, scattered and sometimes hardly available scientific papers focused mostly on agaricoid and boletoid fungi diversity, taxonomy, and ecology (see “Data source” section) and arranging them into a literature-based all-Russian checklist of scientific names of agaricoid and boletoid fungi. The information included makes it possible to: 1) estimate the general number of agaricoid and boletoid names registered from the territory for every Russian administrative region and the Federation as a whole; 2) estimate spatial study coverage and subsequently reveal blank spots (unstudied or poorly studied regions); 3) provide researchers in the fields of mycogeography and fungal taxonomy with information on species distribution through the checklist as well as the full references list.

The presented study was planned as a “panoramic view” of the known agaricoid and boletoid fungi of Russia. We did not aim to assess the true diversity of this group, and thus limited our effort to revealing gaps in the existing knowledge, which would be of use in planning further inventorying studies of this group of fungi.

Data Gathering & Processing

Data sources. The data for the assessment were extracted from scientific publications and PhD theses containing information on the distribution of agaricoid and boletoid fungi in Russia. To choose relevant and appropriate publications, we took the following steps: 1) examination of archives of the Russian mycological journal “Mycology and Phytopathology (Mikologiya i fitopatologiya)” and “Novitates Systematicae Plantarum non Vascularium (Novosti sistematiki nizshikh rastenii)”;

2) analysis of Russian experts’ profiles in the Russian Science Citation Index bibliography database as well as bibliographies of

classic mycologists (Weinmann, Thümen, Karsten, Singer, etc.); 3) analysis of reference lists in the publications selected on the previous two steps. Also, references were obtained from historical overviews of regional botanical and mycological research as well as from search queries via Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science.

The publications used to compile the checklist were obtained from the library of Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences as well as from online and private libraries.

We collected and scrutinized 954 scientific works dating from 1824 to 2020 (journal articles, monographs, book sections, conference proceedings, and PhD theses) of the following types: 1) inventorying studies with species lists for specific territories; 2) taxonomic revisions with data on the examined specimens and their localities; 3) ecological research with information on area of study locality and fungal species arranged in tables or listed in the text as a background for the main research objects. Unpublished data presented in nature reserve annals and research reports were not included. We did not include data from field guides intended for the broad public.

While there remains a possibility of some small gaps in the coverage of this publication, the multifaceted data mining approach has ensured that the vast majority of literature sources on the Russian agaricoid and boletoid fungi has been incorporated in the checklist.

Data processing. The primary data for the agaricoid and boletoid scientific names checklist was recorded to a flat database in Google Sheets. It contains three main tables — data on species distribution, references and nomenclator, interlinked by data validation, functions, and queries by Google Visualization API Query Language (Bolshakov et al., 2017). Each database line contains basic information on the taxon name: its scientific name with authors’ citation, first-level administrative region of Russia and the reference from which the record was obtained. To avoid inaccuracy of the database content, data validation was applied to the species included. Various misprints and errors in the authors’ citations of scientific names were corrected when entered in the database in accordance with the correct name in Index Fungorum (IF).

IF was used for classification of scientific names applied to taxa of specific and infraspecific ranks (current names and their homotypic and heterotypic synonyms). The queries to IF were performed on 18.05.2021 through the API using package “taxize” 0.9.99 for R 4.0.5 (Chamberlain and Szöcs, 2013; Chamberlain et al., 2020). Nomenclature for the Bolbitiaceae family follows E. F. Malyshova’s monograph (2018).

Geographic scope. For the assessment, only those records were selected that could be unambiguously ascribed to any of 85 first-level administrative regions of Russia, including Crimea (as they are defined by the Constitution (Chapter 65 and the corresponding Federal

Law from March 21, 2014)). Records from the territories that were part of Russian territory in the past, but not at present, were not considered.

In order to avoid the probable misinterpretation of Russian territory administrative division, the geography of records is presented as transliteration of correspondent territorial subjects' ranks instead of its formal English translation (e.g., Krai instead of Territory, Oblast instead of Region, etc.).

As a result of state reforms in 1990–1993, a number of Russian administrative regions changed their ranks or borders. Thus, the Altai Republic was established within the Altai Krai, and the Republic of Khakassia within the Krasnoyarsk Krai; later, the two Republics became independent federal subjects. The cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg became independent federal subjects within their regions (Moscow Oblast and Leningrad Oblast, respectively); the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (formerly parts of the Tyumen Oblast) obtained the rank of federal subjects, etc. The corresponding corrections were applied to records that had exact localities provided, making it possible to apply the current territorial nomenclature. If, for instance, the original record was made in the then-Altai Krai, with the precise locality in the Altaiskiy Nature Reserve (now located in the Altai Republic), in the database, it was ascribed to the Altai Republic. In cases when it was impossible to define the exact record localities, as in the case of the Leningrad Oblast checklist (Popov et al., 2007) based on data from Kovalenko and Morozova (1999) and containing records both for Leningrad Oblast and Saint Petersburg (authors' pers. comm.), the broader region (Leningrad Oblast) was specified. The Voronezhskiy Biosphere Reserve lies in the territories of both Lipetsk and Voronezh Oblasts. Records without exact localities were mentioned for both regions.

Bearing in mind the vastness of Russia, we divided its territory into three longitudinal sectors for ease of analysis — Eastern Europe (including the Northern Caucasus and Urals), Siberia, and the Far East. To avoid dividing the Ural Mountains, the boundary between Europe and Siberia and a region of high biodiversity, we are treating it as delimited not by administrative boundaries, but rather by the eastern foothills of the Ural Mountains (200 m. a.s.l.).

Study History

The research history of agarics and boleti in Russia can be tentatively divided into four periods (preliminary, early, classical, and modern). During the preliminary period, research was focused mainly on economically important fungi. In publications from the early period, scattered information on fungi can be found predominantly in reports on academic expeditions organized by the Academy of Sciences, which was established in 1724 (Vassilkov, 1953).

The classical period began with Johann A. Weinmann, the first Russian botanist to contribute significantly to mycological studies in the country. He summarized all existing data on macromycetes of the Russian Empire (Weinmann, 1836). Later, only scattered data on agaricoid and boletoid fungi appeared in works of both Russian (Arthur A. Jaczewski, Fedor V. Bucholtz, etc.) and foreign (Felix von Thümen, Pier A. Saccardo, Petter A. Karsten, etc.) mycologists. The modern period began in the 1920s, when pileate fungi became an independent object of study (Vassilkov, 1953). Lidia A. Lebedeva, Rolf Singer, Ljubov N. Vassileva and Boris P. Vassilkov were the first experts to focus on the study of agaricoid fungi in the USSR. Critically important research on the role of fungi in ecosystems was performed by Vladimir Ya. Chastukhin and colleagues (Chastukhin and Nikolaevskaya, 1969). The period between 1960 and 2000 was marked by the emergence of a number of regional centers of mycological research; beginning from 1990, the number of publications on agaricoid fungi increased dramatically. For detailed information on the published data (papers, researchers, regions etc.), see Appendix D.

Until the 1960s, no more than three publications a year contained any kind of contributions to the knowledge on agaricoid fungi, with rare exceptions; in the course of the following 40 years, until the 2000s, the number of such works published annually increased to 5–8, and beginning from the 2000s, there were usually at least 20 papers published every year (Fig. 1A). The observed curve (Fig. 1C) of the number of publications not only proves the growing interest in various aspects of the biology and taxonomy of agaricoid fungi, but also reflects the explosive growth of publications, which can be considered a general trend in science since the 2000s (Fortunato et al., 2018).

By 1850, the number of published accepted names reached 414 (Fig. 1C). Until the 1970s, data on agaricoid fungi diversity were accumulating very slowly: in the course of 100 years, the number of annually published accepted current names rarely exceeded 100 (Fig. 1B). By 1900, only 541 accepted current names had been published; by 1950, this number increased to 1054. In 1920, Arthur Thesleff (1920) published 445 names for the territory of the modern Leningrad Oblast; in 1939, Vassiljeva (1939) mentioned 318 names for the Caucasus Nature Reserve (territory of modern Krasnodar Krai, Karachay-Cherkess Republic and Adygea); in 1949, Maria V. Freindling reported 228 names from the Kivach Nature Reserve (Karelia). Between 1970–2000, the numbers of annually published accepted current names of agaricoid fungi varied between 100–900. The majority of large lists during this period were published by Matilda I. Beglyanova (1972) for Krasnoyarsk Krai and Khakassia — 677; Ljubov N. Vassiljeva (1973) for Primorsky Krai — 737; and Alexander E. Kovalenko and Olga V. Morozova (1999) for Leningrad Oblast and Saint Petersburg — 872 accepted current names. It is noteworthy that beginning from 1962, data were published every year. By

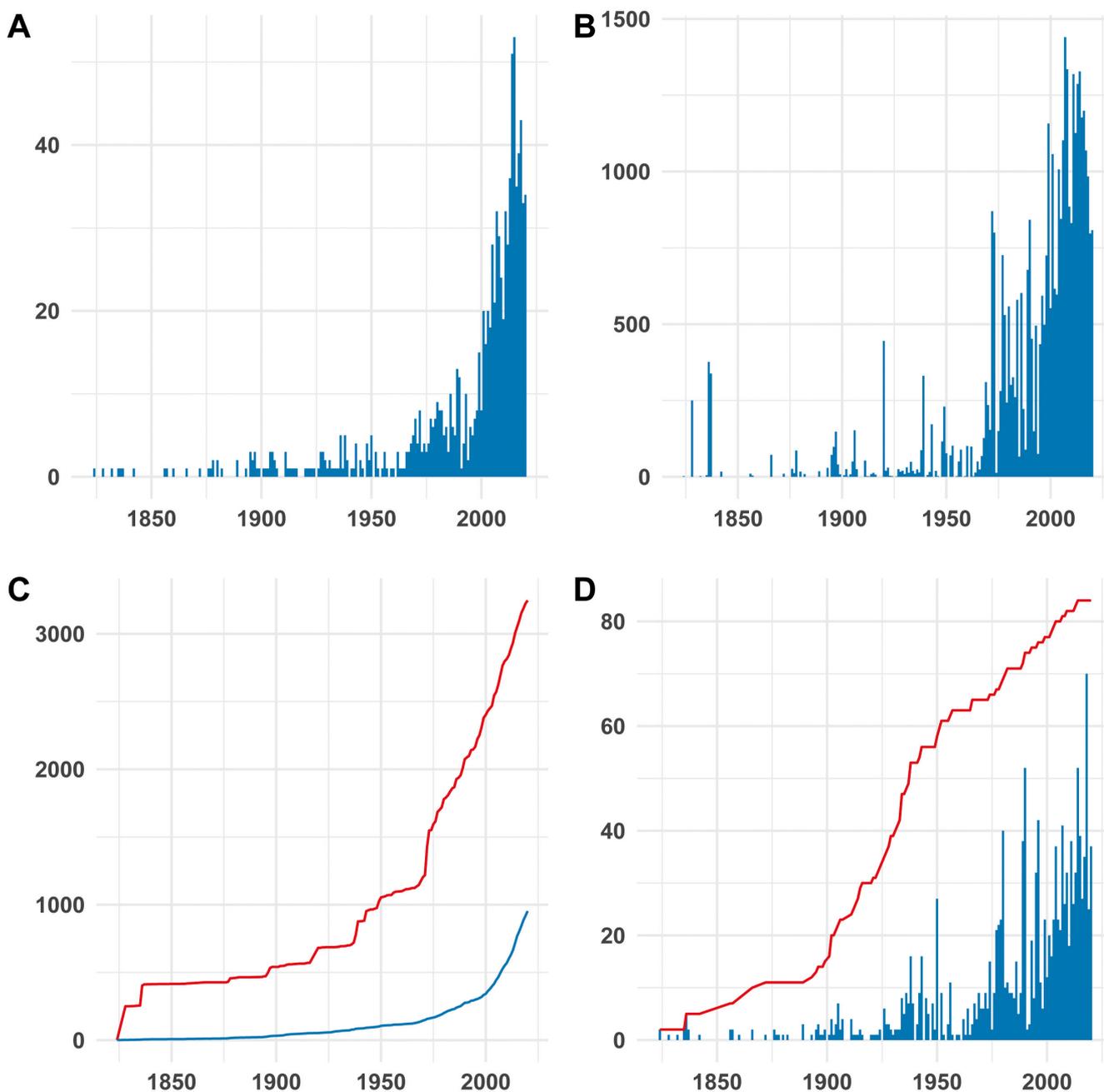


Fig. 1. Timelines of the agaricoid and boletoid fungi diversity research in Russia. A — Annually issued publications. B — Annually reported accepted current names. C — Accumulated numbers of publications (blue line) and detected accepted current names (red line). D — Numbers of studied regions, per year (blue columns) and accumulated (red line).

2000, 2402 accepted current names were published. Since the 2000s, the number of annually published accepted current names increased to 500–1400.

In the 19th century, the number of studied regions increased insignificantly; by 1900, data on agaricoid and boletoid fungi existed only for 15 regions (Fig. 1D). By 1950, the number increased to 58, and by 2000 — to 77. It should be noted that here, we do not assess the intensity of agaricoid fungi research, but simply state the fact of even a single accepted name mentioned for a particular region.

Geographic Distribution

We compiled a list of 6867 names published in 954 scientific papers for 84 of 85 currently existing administrative regions. No data on the Republic of Ingushetia were found. Every name was checked for its current name in IF.

After checking the list against the IF database, all names found in published sources were divided into four groups: 1) 6142 names ascribed unambiguously to accepted current names (as given in IF); 2) 468 names

Table 1. Density of agaricoid and boletoid fungi research in Russia administrative regions

Administrative regions	Code	Accepted current names	% total accepted names	"Unique" names	Number of publications
Adygea	AD	441	13.58	20	26
Altai Krai	ALT	473	14.57	4	17
Altai Republic	AL	798	24.58	60	69
Amur Oblast	AMU	466	14.35	3	39
Arkhangelsk Oblast	ARK	137	4.22	2	20
Astrakhan Oblast	AST	37	1.14	2	5
Bashkortostan	BA	70	2.16	2	11
Belgorod Oblast	BEL	431	13.27	6	22
Bryansk Oblast	BRY	206	6.34	0	8
Buryatia	BU	399	12.29	10	40
Chechen Republic	CE	97	2.99	0	6
Chelyabinsk Oblast	CHE	241	7.42	4	12
Chukotka Autonomous Okrug	CHU	271	8.35	4	25
Chuvash Republic	CU	49	1.51	0	5
Crimea	KM	655	20.17	20	33
Dagestan	DA	7	0.22	0	5
Ingushetia	IN	0	0	0	0
Irkutsk Oblast	IRK	787	24.24	11	60
Ivanovo Oblast	IVA	21	0.65	0	6
Jewish Autonomous Oblast	YEV	452	13.92	3	15
Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	KB	284	8.75	6	12
Kaliningrad Oblast	KGD	670	20.63	13	12
Kalmykia	KL	3	0.09	0	2
Kaluga Oblast	KLU	302	9.3	0	10
Kamchatka Krai	KAM	201	6.19	4	26
Karachay-Cherkess Republic	KC	372	11.46	8	23
Karelia	KR	781	24.05	22	51
Kemerovo Oblast	KEM	45	1.39	0	7
Khabarovsk Krai	KHA	683	21.03	15	43
Khakassia	KK	437	13.46	13	12
Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug	KHM	671	20.67	36	27
Kirov Oblast	KIR	329	10.13	0	16
Komi Republic	KO	720	22.17	22	36
Kostroma Oblast	KOS	67	2.06	0	3
Krasnodar Krai	KDA	609	18.76	32	48
Krasnoyarsk Krai	KYA	1158	35.66	47	99
Kurgan Oblast	KGN	92	2.83	0	6
Kursk Oblast	KRS	175	5.39	0	15
Leningrad Oblast	LEN	1193	36.74	35	88
Lipetsk Oblast	LIP	518	15.95	4	15
Magadan Oblast	MAG	487	15	8	29
Mari El Republic	ME	72	2.22	0	9

Administrative regions	Code	Accepted current names	% total accepted names	“Unique” names	Number of publications
Mordovia	MO	283	8.72	4	35
Moscow	MOW	240	7.39	8	19
Moscow Oblast	MOS	836	25.75	21	46
Murmansk Oblast	MUR	451	13.89	12	52
Nenets Autonomous Okrug	NEN	16	0.49	1	4
Nizhny Novgorod Oblast	NIZ	28	0.86	0	6
North Ossetia	SE	135	4.16	1	4
Novgorod Oblast	NGR	492	15.15	9	35
Novosibirsk Oblast	NVS	649	19.99	10	30
Omsk Oblast	OMS	16	0.49	0	6
Orenburg Oblast	ORE	322	9.92	8	15
Oryol Oblast	ORL	72	2.22	1	6
Penza Oblast	PNZ	744	22.91	25	36
Perm Krai	PER	848	26.12	17	29
Primorsky Krai	PRI	1313	40.44	166	92
Pskov Oblast	PSK	590	18.17	7	21
Rostov Oblast	ROS	419	12.9	12	18
Ryazan Oblast	RYA	530	16.32	10	11
Saint Petersburg	SPE	833	25.65	35	54
Sakha Republic	SA	180	5.54	17	45
Sakhalin Oblast	SAK	331	10.19	12	33
Samara Oblast	SAM	496	15.28	16	35
Saratov Oblast	SAR	99	3.05	1	11
Sevastopol	SEV	210	6.47	3	5
Smolensk Oblast	SMO	173	5.33	1	8
Stavropol Krai	STA	45	1.39	3	20
Sverdlovsk Oblast	SVE	762	23.47	12	27
Tambov Oblast	TAM	15	0.46	0	2
Tatarstan	TA	564	17.37	12	36
Tomsk Oblast	TOM	783	24.11	24	38
Tula Oblast	TUL	686	21.13	10	25
Tver Oblast	TVE	429	13.21	5	29
Tyumen Oblast	TYU	51	1.57	2	11
Tyva Republic	TY	42	1.29	1	3
Udmurt Republic	UD	481	14.81	3	6
Ulyanovsk Oblast	ULY	349	10.75	1	9
Vladimir Oblast	VLA	42	1.29	0	8
Volgograd Oblast	VGG	172	5.3	16	19
Vologda Oblast	VLG	461	14.2	6	26
Voronezh Oblast	VOR	322	9.92	1	18
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug	YAN	317	9.76	7	32
Yaroslavl Oblast	YAR	412	12.69	2	12
Zabaykalsky Krai	ZAB	53	1.63	0	5

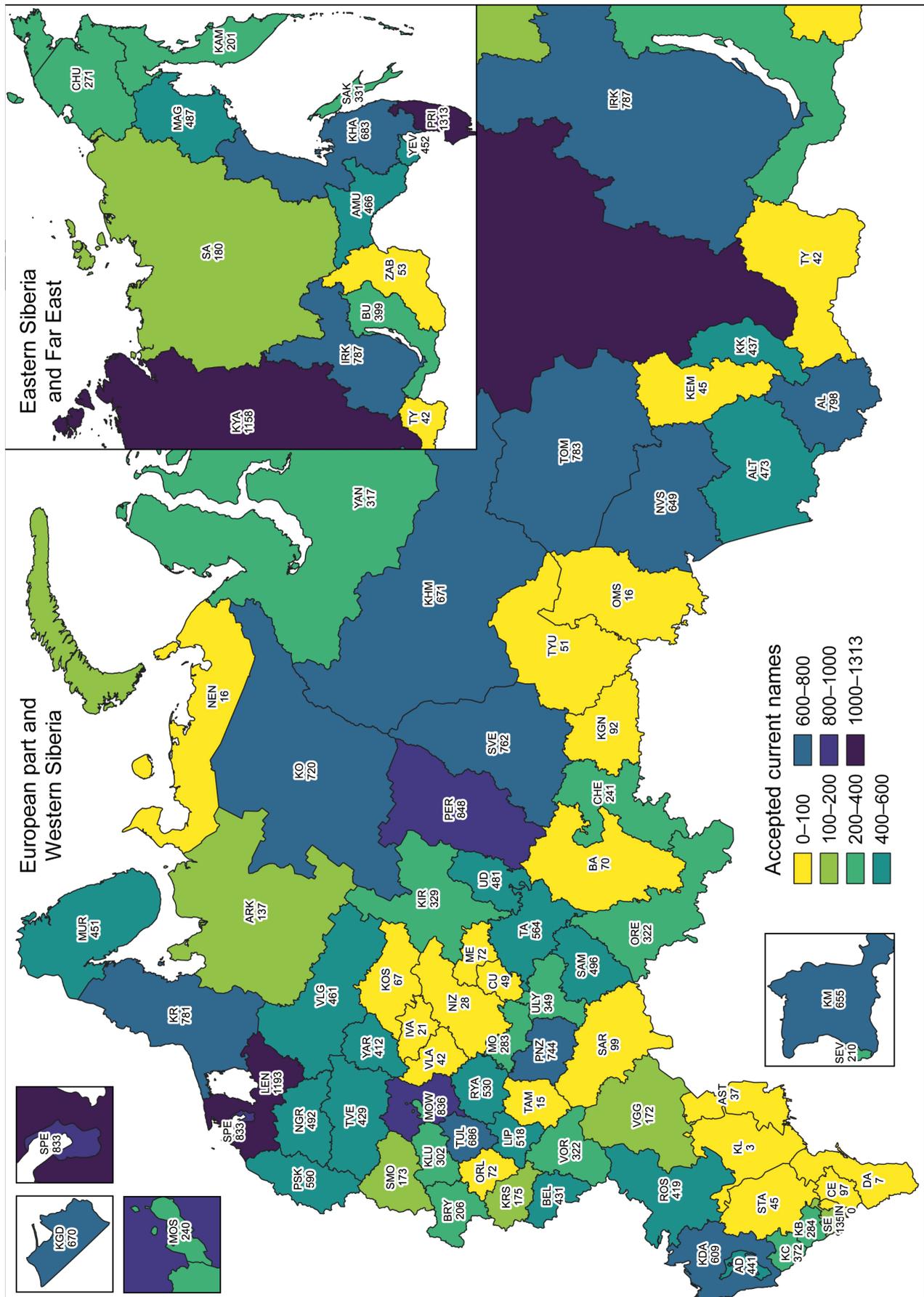


Fig. 2. Choropleth map of accepted current names of agaricoid and boletoid fungi by administrative regions of Russia. Names of administrative regions are abbreviated following the international standard codes ISO 3166–2:RU. The Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol are abbreviated as KM and SEV, respectively. The complete list of region codes is given in Table 1.

that have no current name; 3) 72 correct binomials with incorrect author citations, i.e., such that do not match any records in IF; 4) 187 genus-species or infraspecific combinations absent from IF.

Names unambiguously interpreted according to IF are included in the first list. Infraspecific autonyms without current names also belong here. Such names are given in Appendix A as a list of current names with synonyms.

The second list given in Appendix B enumerates taxa with missing current names as well as correct binomials with wrong author citations. It is impossible to interpret them unambiguously and to bring into correlation with certain current names. Names absent from IF are also included in the second list.

The compiled list of fungal names cannot represent the real structure of the mycobiota, because it contains scientific names of different levels of reliability. Therefore, it can only be subjected to very basic analysis. For the following summary and analyses, we only used information on names and regions from the first list (Appendix A). We consider the authors of the original papers to be in charge of the accuracy of reported species identification.

By 2020, a total of 3246 accepted current names of agaricoid and boletoid fungi were reported for Russia. The general statistics for regions is presented in Table 1. A choropleth map of research density is shown in Fig. 2. The numbers of accepted names recorded for each region differ dramatically. 918 accepted scientific names are known from only one region, 1381 are reported from 2–10 regions, 847 — from 11–50 regions. Only 85 species are reported from more than 50 regions. 15 accepted current names were published as occurring in Russia without the exact region of collection.

The most thoroughly studied regions (more than 1000 accepted names of agaricoid and boletoid fungi reported) are Primorsky Krai — 1313, Leningrad Oblast — 1193, Krasnoyarsk Krai — 1158. The number of well-studied regions (500–1000 names reported) is 21, and there are lists of 100–500 names for 38 regions. The median for all regions is 340.

At the same time, there are three regions with less than 10 accepted names known: Ingushetia — 0, Kalmykia — 3, Dagestan — 7. There are 23 understudied regions in Russia with less than 100 accepted names published. In most cases, there are no published studies of agaricoid and boletoid fungi in these territories, and data for the checklist were obtained from Soviet floras and regional Red lists.

The distribution of 919 currently accepted names known only from a single region also substantially differs from region to region. The following territories are the richest in such “unique” taxa: Primorsky Krai — 166, Altai Republic — 60, Krasnoyarsk Krai — 47, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug — 36, Leningrad Oblast — 35, Saint Petersburg — 35, Krasnodar Krai — 32.

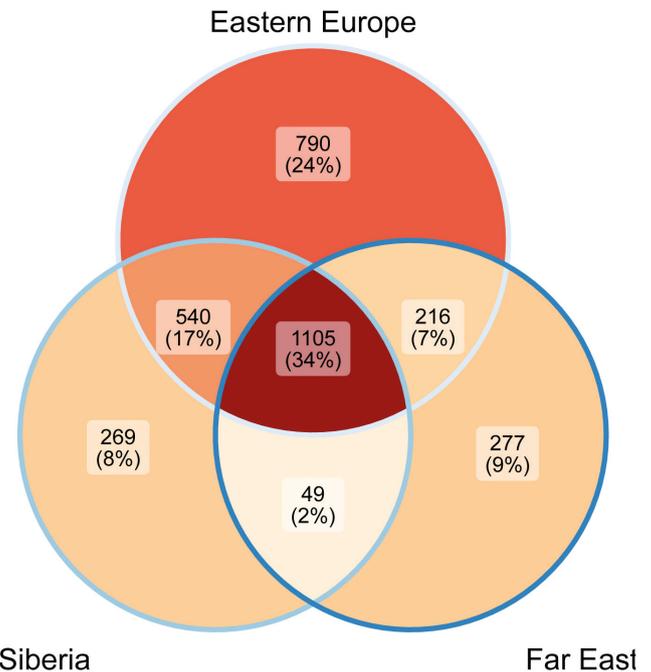


Fig. 4. Comparison of lists of accepted current names for longitudinal sectors.

At least 30 such names are recorded in 59 regions, while in 19 regions, there are no unique finds (Fig. 3, Table 1). The full lists of such names for each region are given in Appendix C arranged by longitudinal sectors.

The lists of accepted current names have been compared by longitudinal sectors. In the Eastern European part of Russia 2629 names are recorded, in Siberia — 1959, in the Russian Far East — 1647. A total of 1105 accepted current names are shared by the three sectors. A total of 790 names are unique for the Eastern European Sector, 269 for Siberia and 277 for the Far East (Fig. 4).

The distribution of “unique” accepted names between sectors is as follows: 468 in Eastern Europe, 235 in Siberia and 215 in the Far East (Appendix C).

Concluding remarks

We thoroughly checked all available libraries to find as many publications dealing with agaricoid fungi of Russia as possible. We found 954 works by hundreds of authors in five languages dating from 1824 to 2020 in order to compile the most comprehensive bibliography to date and summarize the existing data, bringing it to the “common denominator” by updating the nomenclature (the accumulated bulk of taxonomical changes gravely complicates the use of these data in their original form); at the same time, the checklist also contains all original information, including synonyms, ambiguous names, etc. The resulting checklist clearly demonstrates that despite more than 150 years of agaricoid fungi research in Russia, there are regions that are in desperate need

of inventorying studies, revealing unexpectedly massive blank spots on the “agaricological” map of Russia. There have been no surveys whatsoever in over twenty regions (Fig. 2); while Northern Caucasus, South Siberia and the Far East are in need of more detailed surveying. We hope that our work will inspire scientists to invest more effort into inventorying surveys, which are a cornerstone in biodiversity and biogeography research.

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