



## FROM THE EDITOR



IT IS IN THE DEAD OF WINTER that I start to long for spring. The snow has been drifting outside for days. Will signs of life ever return to the frozen wastes of the upper Midwest? I am aware, and a bit envious, that this is not the case for everyone. Our readers living in the southern hemisphere are heading into their main fruiting season for big fall mushrooms. And although we cannot take you there physically, this issue of *FUNGI* will take you on a virtual foray to the southernmost tip of South America. Three bearers of household names in mycology—Gary Lincoff (*Audubon Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*), Nicholas Money (*Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard, The Triumph of the Fungi, and Carpet Monsters and Killer Spores*), and Moselio Schaechter (*In the Company of Mushrooms*)—have written essays on Charles Darwin's trip around South America and the bizarre fungus he found there.

Speaking of bizarre, behold the plasmodial and cellular slime molds. Many would consider them just short of otherworldly. To shed light on the subject, the two leading authorities of each group, John T. Bonner and Harold W. Keller, have contributed wonderful review papers that you are sure to enjoy. And if that's not enough, the photographs of these incredibly beautiful creatures will take you up close and personal.

I am so thrilled to present to you this star-studded issue. What better way to kick off our third year in print . . . and to shake off those winter blues!

*Photos of *Cyttaria darwinii*  
in Tierra del Fuego, courtesy of  
B. Kropp.*