МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РФ
ТОМСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
БИОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ ИНСТИТУТ

СТАРТ В НАУКУ

МАТЕРИАЛЫ

LXX научной студенческой конференции
Биологического института

Томск, 26–30 апреля 2021 г.

Томск
2021

ZOMBIE FUNGUS

A.A. Platonova
Platonova_anastas@mail.ru

The *Cordiceps* genus, or so-called “zombie fungus” stands out among other fungus with its interesting life cycle, which consists in parasitic lifestyle it leads on insects and some other arthropoda, including spiders. This part of its life involves taking control over its host. Because of this peculiar fact and some other features this genus has received so much attention from scientists.

In this work we are going to analyze different sources of information to reveal more details about *Cordiceps* and its significance to people: its biological features, its occurrence, its applying to different spheres of our life.

According to the gathered information, this fungus has in general a club-shaped body, which varies in colour, which is usually bright. We got to know that species of this genus are concentrated in rainforests; though it used to be much more widespread some time ago (there is some evidence of some species even in Siberia).

Some data about the usage of this fungus by people was found. It was revealed that “zombie fungus” has been applied in traditional medicine since ancient times in China. Nowadays it is also widely used in modern medicine. Recently a few studies have been carried out to find out the ways to make it possible to apply some of them in modern industry. For instance, one component produced by one of the species has been used in surgery for several decades. Additionally, *Cordiceps* is used to protect crops from some kinds of insects. Further studying of this genus could help to solve the problem of cultivation *Cordiceps in vitro* in large quantities successfully.

To sum up, all found data confirms that this genus has a significant role in life of our society; therefore, this genus is worth more studying so that even more of its properties can be revealed and applied to some modern technologies. Moreover, it could help us to start its cultivation and massive production of components extracted from it.

Academic advisor – senior lecturer E. V. Vychuzhanina