

Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Abdel-Azeem from Department of Botany and Microbiology, Faculty of Science, University of Suez Canal, Egypt

I am currently working as professor of microbiology (mycology) for Botany and Microbiology Department, Faculty of Science, Suez Canal University at Ismailia and mycologist with particular interest in the ecology, taxonomy, biology, and conservation of fungi, and my specialist interest is members of the phylum *Ascomycota*. My research includes isolation, identification and taxonomic assessments of these fungi with particular emphasis on those which produce bioactive materials from different ecological habitats.

I graduated from the Botany Department, Faculty of Science, University of Suez Canal in 1987 with an honors degree graded as excellent. In 1997, I obtained my master's degree with a dissertation on cytogenetical and biological studies of fungus *Chaetomiopsis dinae*, and my PhD thesis, awarded in 2003, focused on the ecology, distribution, and substratum preferences of the *Ascomycota* in Egypt.

I am interested in the effect of climate change on fungi, especially the impacts of ultraviolet light on leaf and soil fungi. I have the necessary vision combined with proven experience leading and successfully completing complex and ambitious projects. I founded and now lead the Arab Society for Fungal Conservation [www.fungiofegypt.com/ASFC.html], which represents the International Society for Fungal Conservation regionally, and Executive Committee member of International Mycological Association (IMA). I contributed the Egyptian component for fungi in the Encyclopedia of Life. I am a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Specialist Group for Cup Fungi, Truffles and their Allies and IUCN Commission on Education and Communication. I have authored publications about fungal conservation and organized international meetings on the subject. I have a mycology PhD and tenure as a full Professor of Mycology at Suez Canal University.

