

“The World Is Filled With Slime Mold”

by Mana Masui

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[About this book]

The author, Mana Masui, is a high school student who has lived with slime molds for ten years.

Masui has proved that although slime molds are unicellular

organisms, in the plasmodium phase a slime mold is able to distinguish itself from others. His paper has been published in the authoritative international Journal of Physics. He also won a Prime Minister’s Award for his research while he was a junior high school student.

In this book, Masui talks about what he has seen, experienced, discovered and thought about over the last ten years. The book explains the mysterious charms of slime mold, considered to be beautiful in the fruit body stage, as it changes through different phases.

The book features color photographs, including a cover photograph by internationally famous cameraman Hideaki Hamada.

Masui’s chatty writing style makes it an easy read, even for those who have never heard of slime molds before. When you finish reading it, you should get the meaning of the title.



[Extracts from the text]

●Chapter 3

They’re everywhere! That’s what I always reply when somebody asks me “Where are slime molds?”

Even if I say, “they’re everywhere”, you might think they’re not in cities or inside homes, are they?

But slime molds might really be everywhere.

●Chapter 5

I have been studying slime molds since the first grade of elementary school. I started my experiments when I lived with slime molds and realized that they moved in different ways. When I solved one question, another new puzzle emerged. This kept repeating and before I knew it, almost ten years had passed.

[Contents]

Chapter 1: How we met

Chapter 2: What kind of living things are slime molds?

Chapter 3: My life with slime molds

Chapter 4: My thoughts while living with slime molds

Chapter 5: Research into slime mold’s “self and others” behavior



[Author profile]

Mana Masui was born in Tokyo in 2001. He started breeding slime mold at the age of 5, and started research from the age of 7, planning and leading research presentations, lectures and workshops. His research paper was first published in an international journal in June 2018. He has won many awards, including the Japan Student Science Award. He is a member of the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology’s high school/university joint research program, and a member of the Japanese Society of Myxomycetology.

[Reviews]

●Natsuki Ikezawa (Writer/Poet)

“Much of the charm of this book is the curiosity of a young boy and his encounter with slime mold, and the style and structure in which this is expressed.”

●Kaoru Takeuchi (Science Writer)

“It’s like an enjoyable photo essay, but it’s also a fine piece of scientific research. There is nothing to be lost in reading this book.”