Bookreview

J. SEMAL (red.)

TRAITÉ DE PATHOLOGIE VÉGÉTALE

Les Presses agronomiques de Gembloux, A. S. B. L., Belgium, 1989, 621 pp., 16 colour supplements with 26 pictures and a large number of photographs, drawings, graphs, diagrams and tables included in the text. Price not given.

The purpose of the publication, its origin and a list of authors are stated in the concise preface. The contents proper are divided into separate parts comprising a total of 22 chapters. The first part has one chapter dealing with plant diseases. It deals with their terminology, their history accompanied by examples of the most dangerous diseases occurring all over the world, a survey of the most significant discoveries for plant protection from 1963 to 1988; it describes the symptoms and consequences of diseases and evaluates their economic importance. Another part called etiology consists of 6 chapters: the non-parasite causes of diseases, viruses and viroids, procaryota (bacteria, mycoplasma and spiroplasma), protozoa (Phytomonas = Eptomonas), fungi, higher plants. The third part comprises 3 chapters: relations between a host plant and a parasite, ways of virus transmission, epidemiology of diseases induced by parasites. The fourth part deals with methods of plant protection and contains 8 chapters: diagnostics, basic rules for plant protection, sanitary measures, agrotechnical measures, genetic increase of plant resistance, importance of tissue cultures for phytopathology, biological methods of plant protection, phytopathological aspects of chemical control. The last part called phytopathology and agronomy has 4 chapters: phytopathology and bioengineering, phytopathology and economy, plant protection in developing countries, the main issues of current phytopathology. The list of recommended literature on 11 pages is divided according to the main parts of the publication and comprises only basic recent works since 1962; next comes a survey of 19 world journals on phytopathology. At the end of the publication there is a terminological dictionary, a list of abbreviations and an index of the main general terms and scientific names for disease originators.

The publication is the result of collaboration between 15 authors at the University of Agriculture in Belgium. Their photographs, to which their names are not attached, are presented at the end of the preface. The publication summarizes the current state of research and presents the latest knowledge in botany, biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, phytotechnology in relation to plant diseases and agriculture, horticulture and forest practice. A record time of 2 years sufficed to produce this book, so it is highly topical. It is written in very good and clear French, which was the international language used for scientific, diplomatic as well as postal communication. Even though French has been replaced by English at international scientific conferences, it has proved to be a very useful language for international understanding in science. The text is balanced and supplemented by a large number of perfect photographs, excellently drawn pictures, illustrative graphs as well as clear tables. It is, therefore, an excellent textbook both for university students and for scientific workers in the field who are university graduates employed or in charge of organization in different branches of agricultural production. The high quality paper, perfect print and prompt publication of the book arouse admiration, as well as the desire to see other books on agricultural and forestry issued by the same publishers the last 10 years and whose list faces the front page.

The motto of the book: *Plantae sanae in terra sana* = healthy plants in healthy soil, is the elementary rule for the preservation of a healthy environment, because the health of animals, the quality of food and human health also depend on it.

ANTONÍN PŘÍHODA