BOOK REVIEW

Crop Protection Compendium – Module 1 (CD-ROM) CAB International

Electronic delivery of crop protection information has taken a leap forward with the release of the first module of the Crop Protection Compendium in January 1997. The module is part of an ambitious program by CAB International to produce an effective, global pest management database on compact disc and is due for completion in 1999.

Module one of the Compendium presents detailed information on 1000 major pests (diseases, insects, weeds) and their natural enemies, with emphasis on pests of importance in South-East Asia and the Pacific. For each pest, information is provided on, for example, the biology, taxonomy, hosts, geographic distribution, quarantine risks, detection and identification and control options.

The menu is designed to allow flexibility in searching for a particular pest. A search can be made via a pest species, crop or geographic area. Within each category, further sub-sets of data can be accessed which, for example, provide extensive information on the botany and cultivation of a crop or allow detailed information on distribution of a pest in a certain country to be viewed. Hyper-links on keywords allow easy access to other relevant information, allowing a comprehensive survey of a pest to be rapidly developed. An electronic notepad facility is provided to add personal notes on issues and a detailed interactive glossary is also a feature of the system. Literature references are linked to an extensive bibliographic database. The Compendium includes CABIKEY, an illustrated diagnostic key for insect pests and a multi-lingual list of common names and synonyms.

The illustrations and graphics in the Compendium are excellent, providing the user with high quality images of, for example, disease symptoms and stages in the life cycles of insect pest species. The maps provide a gradation of detail on pest distribution while line drawings have been used to present fine detail on plant parts and insect morphology.

The Crop Protection Compendium will be a valuable asset to all involved in teaching, extension, research and regulatory aspects of crop protection. One can see students using the system as a primary source of information for many assignments in plant protection and related disciplines. The Compendium will perhaps have its greatest impact in developing countries where the lack of adequate reference libraries is often a major problem. Provided an IBM-compatible PC with a minimum 8 Mb memory is available, the Compendium allows access to a wealth of data and bibliographic information. A revised edition of the Compendium will be produced annually. The considerable discount offered to developing countries makes the Compendium an attractive proposition. The current price of module one of the Compendium in Australia is approximately \$2500. Although this is a considerable initial outlay, the Compendium, with annual updates, will remain current for many years and provides a vast amount of information across a broad spectrum of crop protection topics.

The Crop Protection Compendium is a valuable, new concept in providing crop protection information. CAB International and the consortium of funding bodies, including the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, who have supported the development of the system are to be congratulated for undertaking the ambitious project.

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In an article by Castillo-Pando *et al.* (*Australasian Plant Pathology* 26: 21–25) entitled 'Inhibition in pycnidial viability of *Phomopsis viticola* on canes *in situ* as an aid to reducing inoculum potential of cane and leaf blight disease of grapevines' two lines in Table 2 should read

Fluazinam	15	13	12	0	0	0.8
Fluazinam + mineral oil	32	30	5	4	0	6.0