

Références

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BOOK REVIEW

ULLRICH, J.: *Epidemiologische Aspekte der Krankheitsresistenz von Kulturpflanzen*. J. Plant Breeding Suppl. 6 — P. Parey, Berlin 1976, 88 pp. 10 Figs., 6 Tab.

A practical aim, which had to be derived from theoretical results, has not been achieved manytimes in plant breeding for resistance. This paper demonstrates some problems in this field, taking esp. potato blight and cereal rust diseases as examples. The first success with fully resistant potato varieties was obliterated by changes in pathogenic properties of the fungus. It was shown that a small number of pathogens' generations were enough for originating new pathotypes; consequently, the specific resistance of potatoes became unimportant with complex pathotypes of the fungus, being able to overcome the resistance based on several genes. Furthermore, an increase of complex pathotypes has been demonstrated. Therefore, much attention is paid to the unspecific resistance corresponding to the unspecific pathogenicity. Breeding potatoes for blight resistance is directed today at unspecific resistance. On the other hand, breeding cereal varieties is still based on specific resistance. A danger of cultivating a variety over large areas in relation to its specific resistance and epidemics of new pathogens is discussed, as well as prospects of growing varieties with differing specific resistances. The value of specific resistance might be maintained with varieties possessing numerous genes for specific resistance. A critical examination of the van der Planks' concept of vertical and horizontal types of resistance and of his theory of stabilizing selection and the varying strength of the genes opens some practically very important problems. Pathotypes possessing unspecific pathogenicity survive better under natural conditions. New specific pathotypes can arise on corresponding hosts and also spontaneously as mutations. They are ready to overcome the specific resistance genes when new varieties possessing them are introduced. Specific pathotypes spread the more rapidly the greater is the degree of their unspecific pathogenicity. Thus, the author concludes that in the future the attention will be directed more towards unspecific resistance.

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