

CORRIGENDUM

The following correction is made to the paper titled **The Association of *Phoma sclerotoides* with Root Diseases of Cereals, Legumes and Weeds**, by J.R. Harris, APP 15(1), 14-17 (1986).

The top portion of the right hand column on page 15 should read —

“somewhat navicular, 4-8(6.5) x 2.5-4.5(3.0) m and generally, but not always, biguttulate.

Pathogenicity tests were conducted on six isolates of *P. sclerotoides* (cultures nos. FVC-2254.0, FYC-2255.B, FYR-2256.B, FYB-2257.B, FYR-2258.B and FYR-2259.GB) from oats, barley and brome-grass using West oats and Clipper barley as test hosts growing in 10 c.i. nursery cones. The trials were conducted partly in a growth cabinet and partly in a small glasshouse compartment. The seedlings grew for 4 weeks in Cone-Tainers[®] containing 200 g sterilized sand/soil mixture. This had been infested beneath the seed immediately prior to seeding with a (10 g) layer of perlite/sand mixture in which the test fungi had been grown following introduction from a culture on PDA.

SIXTH APPS CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE, 11-15TH MAY, 1987

The deadline for registration and payment of registration fees for the Sixth APPS Conference is 28th November, 1986. All those who responded to the first circular and had their names entered upon the mailing list should now have received the final circular containing detailed information on the Conference programme and registration forms. Registration forms and accompanying payments should be sent to Dr A. Dube, S.A. Department of Agriculture, C/- Waite Agricultural Research Institute, P.M.B. 1, Glen Osmond, S.A. 5064. Those delegates requiring accommodation at the Conference are particularly requested to register early.

Those not having received the final circular may do so by contacting Greg Walker, Department of Agriculture, Loxton Research Centre, Box 411, Loxton, S.A. 5333 (telephone 085 847 315).

G. Walker
Secretary
Organizing Committee

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED PLANT PATHOLOGIST

Emeritus Professor Irvine A. Watson, distinguished for research on pathogenic variation in wheat rust fungi and for the breeding of rust resistant varieties of wheat, died on 1 March, 1986.

He was born in 1914 and grew up on the family property near Parkes, New South Wales. He was educated at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, and entered the University of Sydney in 1933. He graduated Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with First Class Honours in 1938 and was awarded the Thomas Lawrence Pawlett Scholarship by the University of Sydney for PhD studies at the University of Minnesota. His PhD on genetic aspects of resistance to *Puccinia graminis* f. sp. *tritici* was awarded in 1941.

Watson was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in the University of Sydney in 1938. He was promoted to Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer and, in 1955, to Associate Professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding. In 1962 he was appointed to the Chair of Agricultural Botany, a position which he held until his retirement in 1977. Watson also held the appointment of Director of the Plant Breeding Institute of the University of Sydney (1974-1977).

Watson's research expanded upon the studies of his predecessor, Professor W.L. Waterhouse. Watson aimed to understand the biology and genetic variability of wheat rust pathogens and to apply this knowledge in the production of rust resistant wheat cultivars. He began before Flor revealed the inheritance of pathogenicity in the flax rust fungus and proposed the gene:for:gene hypothesis for pathogen/plant relationships. Watson's research on the stem rust pathogen established the roles of mutation and somatic hybridization as mechanisms of pathogen variation in Australia. His work is documented in approximately 60 research papers, many of which appeared in the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of NSW.

Watson realised the need for continual and comprehensive monitoring of variation in the pathogen population by means of pathotype surveys. Because the only genetic markers for use in epidemiological and population studies were those relating to pathogenicity, he believed in monitoring pathogenicity on the maximum number of host differentials. He realised that only some of the variation was relevant to the resistance genes being deployed in commercial cultivars. The resulting knowledge of pathogenicity was then used to record the spread of new pathotypes throughout Australasia. Unique systems of pathotype designation were