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Book review

G. F. Weber: Bacterial and fungal diseases of plants in the tropics. University of Florida Press, 1973. 673 p., 210 ill. Price \$ 22.50.

The number of general books on phytopathology in the tropics is still small, but slowly increasing. Weber's book is the first encyclopedia compiling all important bacterial and fungal diseases of as many crops as possible in one volume of reasonable size. The diseases are arranged alphabetically according to common names of host plants. The purpose of the book is to help diagnose the diseases from symptoms and characteristics of the pathogen.

About 1300 diseases of 94 host plants are described. Many food crops of importance for the local population are included. 46 diseases of maize are dealt with and another twenty names of pathogens 'associated with corn' are listed. Some selected literature references are given for each plant; 31 titles are included for maize.

Illustration is kept simple and printed on the same paper as the book; the 210 photographs show symptoms and details of the pathogens.

Some readers may expect more information on control measures. This subject is dealt with deliberately in general on three pages only and no details are given for each disease separately. The authors' aim was solely to make diagnosis easier. Moreover control measures and products are changing rapidly.

This book will be of use for students, advisers, lecturers and also farmers in tropical agriculture, because the author has succeeded in composing an attractive and easily readable volume.

D. Mulder