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## Book review

R. Bovey, W. Gärtel, W. B. Hewitt, G. P. Martelli and A. Vuittenez, 1980. Maladies à virus et affections similaires de la vigne; atlas en couleurs des symptômes. Virosen und virusähnliche Krankheiten der Rebe; Farbatlas der Symptome. Virus and virus-like diseases of grapevines; colour atlas of symptoms. Editions Payot, Lausanne/La Maison Rustique, Paris/Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart. 181 pp., 186 photographs in colour, 1 table and index. DM 58.

The grapevine, having been vegetatively propagated for hundreds of years, is bound to be overrun by viruses. Indeed some 30 important virus or virus-like diseases have already been described in this crop. They often considerably reduce yield and quality and their accumulation leads to cultivar degeneration.

Sofar only twenty diseases have been proved to be actually associated with viruses. A few, previously thought to be caused by virus, are now attributed to procaryotic *Mycoplasma* and *Rickettsia*-like micro-organisms. Study of these disease in the field and proof of virus freedom of propagation stock, used for disease prevention, still is largely by examination for symptoms on field-grown cultivars or on special *Vitis* species used as indicators. Illustrations of symptoms in colour (186 in total) therefore constitute the major part of the present book (ca. 100 pages). They help to distinguish virus diseases from disorders due to certain pests (toximios), mineral deficiencies, pesticides, genetic aberrations or climatic influences.

There are three short introductory chapters on the diseases caused by viruses transmitted by nematodes, soil fungi, aphids, and by unknown vectors, on diseases caused by *Mycoplasma*- and *Rickettsia*-like organisms and on virus-like disorders. The book terminates with a helpful tabular survey of the viruses and virus diseases of the crop and of their main characteristics, and with an alphabetical index.

The authors' reputation for their research on grapevine viruses and virus diseases in Switzerland, Germany, USA, Italy and France warrants the quality of the information from a wide range of sources. Layout and printing are of high quality. The book will be indispensable for all concerned with crop protection of grapevine. Publication of the entire text and all legends in French, German and English aims at a wide reading public.

L. Bos