

Book review

M. Luc, R.A. Sikora & J. Bridge (Eds), 1990. Plant parasitic nematodes in subtropical and tropical agriculture. C.A.B. International, Oxon, UK. XVII + 629 pp.: text with tables and illustrations; references at the end of each chapter; 16 colour plates; 2 appendices; general index (15 pp). ISBN 0-85198-630-7. Cloth bound. Price £ 60 (US\$ 98.50, Americas only).

The book contains 19 chapters written by more than 30 authors from about 20 countries.

In the introduction, the editors explain how the comprehensive information on important plant-parasitic nematodes, mentioning more than 250 species in appendix B, is still far from complete: 'in the subtropical and tropical areas, new problems are being, and have yet to be, discovered involving new nematode species and even genera, or species not previously recorded as harmful to a crop'.

In Chapter 1, a very brief simplified account of the basic morphology, anatomy and bionomics of plant-parasitic nematodes is followed by illustrated descriptions and references to useful literature, concentrating on the diagnostic features of the main genera of plant-parasitic nematodes referred to in the other chapters.

In Chapter 2, details are given on the methods for extraction and handling of plant and soil nematodes for identification and population studies.

In Chapter 3 to 18, information is detailed on the distribution, symptoms of damage, biology, survival and means of dissemination, disease complexes, economic importance, damage thresholds, control, and methods of diagnosis for the different nematode parasites of rice, cereals, root and tuber crops, food legumes, vegetables, peanut, citrus, subtropical and tropical fruit trees, coconut and other palms, coffee, cocoa and tea, bananas, plantains and abaca, sugarcane, tobacco, pineapple, cotton and other tropical fibre crops, and spices. In addition to black and white figures and photographs in the text, symptoms of nematode damage to the crops are illustrated on one colour plate per chapter, showing 5 to 8 photographs.

In Chapter 19, effects of tropical climates on the distribution and host-parasite relationships of plant-parasitic nematodes are discussed and special aspects of the tropical regions are identified, which must be considered in the development of experimental designs to assess the dynamics and importance of plant-parasitic nematode populations.

Appendix A gives a list of the chemicals in use in the 1980s for the control of plant-parasitic nematodes by nematicidal, nematostatic or nematorepellent action. Under three headings as fumigants, non-fumigant organophosphates and non-fumigant carbamates, entries are arranged by common name followed by preferred chemical name, then other names or codes which may vary from country to country, and finally by the type of formulation of the chemical.

The editors, each of them having great knowledge and long experience in subtropical and tropical plant nematology all over the world, are to be commended for producing this valuable and authoritative resource book. The extensive information provided in the book makes it an invaluable practical manual for nematologists, agriculturists, teachers and students, especially those working in tropical regions.

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