

Book review

Plant Parasitic Nematodes in Subtropical and Tropical Agriculture – 2nd Edition. Edited by M. Luc, R. Sikora and J. Bridge. 2005. 896 pp. CABI Publishing, UK. ISBN 0851997279. £99.50 (US\$195.00). Hardback.

Two books in the discipline of nematology have been published recently by CABI Publishing: 'Nematology, Advances and Perspectives' edited by Chen et al. (2004) and the book reviewed here. These two books are complementary; the first is a 'generic-type' book that covers a variety of issues in nematology 'horizontally', whereas the second provides 'vertical' coverage of the crops that serve as hosts to various plant-parasitic nematode species. Carefully selected by the editors, the crops are catalogued, not necessarily according to the classical botanical families, but according to their economic importance from the agricultural point of view.

This second edition of the book upgrades comprehensively the practical information that every farmer, extension adviser, teacher or scientist needs occasionally.

The 'basket' of crops introduced to the reader includes field crops and various commodities, e.g., rice, cereals, food legumes, *Solanum* crops, sugarcane, cotton, tobacco, vegetables, subtropical and tropical fruits as well as bananas and citrus, and tea, coffee and cocoa. Spices and medicinal plants have been added to this edition.

The reader will find the present version much improved and more attractive than the first edition, for the following reasons:

1. The information has been updated and revised up to 2004.
2. Chapters that covered nematode parasitism of several crops, such as 'Root and Tuber Crops' or 'Coffee, Cocoa and Tea', in the first edition, have been split into separate chapters; in

the second edition, for example, separate chapters cover nematode parasitism of '*Solanum* and Sweet Potatoes', 'Tropical Root and Tuber Crops', and 'Coffee and Cocoa', and a separate chapter covers 'Tea'. This separation corresponds to the differing types of cultivation and climatic demands of these crops.

3. The second edition covers nematode parasitism of additional crop species, such as spices and medicinal plants, which reflects the increased interest in these crops in modern agriculture.
4. As a result of the introduction of new authors, and updated observations, records and results published since 1990, more recent, novel and original attitudes and a modernized scientific background of agri-nematological know-how are expressed; e.g., new concepts for nematode control, which were previously considered to be 'non-conventional' (cover crops, biological control, etc.) are addressed comprehensively in this edition.
5. The overall presentation of the book, as delivered to the reader, has been very much improved; the quality of the printing as well as that of the photographs (notably the high-quality colour photographs) give the reader the impression that this book will be worth the price of US\$195.00. I, for one, will definitely enjoy it and will use it for practical purposes and for my next class.

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