

Book review

P. Holliday, 1989. Dictionary of plant pathology. Cambridge University Press. 369 pp. ISBN 0-521-33117-X. Price £ 30.00, \$ 55.00.

This dictionary contains more than 8000 entries, most of which fall in the following categories: a) Plant pathology terms; b) Names of pathogenic fungi, bacteria, mycoplasmas, viruses, viroids and nematodes, which are briefly described with supporting references, and the names of vectors with the pathogens that they transmit; c) Names of taxonomic groups with entries for class, order, family, genus and species; d) Names of diseases caused by pathogens and abiotic factors; e) Names of crops plus corresponding names of diseases, thus: pea, -dwarf mosaic, -cyst nematode etc.; f) Toxins formed by pathogens and that affect plant tissue, such as victorin and alternaric acid; mycotoxins or phytoalexins are not listed; g) Fungicides; h) Biography of famous plant pathologists in the past.

The author acknowledges the help from librarians and the comments received from a number of colleagues. Nevertheless, it is a tremendous job for one person to cover such a very wide field, and to take the ultimate responsibility for the whole text. A few critical remarks may be made. The listing of fungicides is not consistent. Some obsolete fungicides have been included (e.g. dichlone and chloranil), while some other fungicides nowadays important in disease control have not been mentioned at all (e.g. fenpropimorph, cymoxanil). Kasugamycin and polyoxins, antibiotics used in plant protection, are not listed, but the obsolete antibiotic griseofulvin is included. Further, the common name of a fungicide is not always an abbreviation of the chemical name, as is stated under 'chemotherapy'. I would advise to omit in a dictionary like this the ever changing list of fungicides used in practice or add a (dated) list in an appendix.

The author does not mention the source of the classification of fungi he uses; here too an appendix containing this classification up to the genus might be helpful to the reader.

In some cases the author suggests to modify certain names of diseases, e.g. Dutch elm wilt instead of the commonly used Dutch elm disease, and pink crust instead of pink disease (*Cor-ticium salmonicola*). Such suggestions do not fit very well into a true dictionary. Moreover, the reason for this (tautology) does not seem very convincing.

These remarks are, however, only of minor importance in relation to the value of the book, which indeed fills a gap in the plant pathology literature. The author deserves our thanks for making such a dictionary available. It certainly will find a place on the desk of many phytopathologists and others who have to deal with plant diseases.

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