

Foreword

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The downy mildews—genetics, molecular biology and control

This book contains chapters presented by keynote speakers at The Second International Downy Mildews Symposium, held in July 2007 at Olomouc, Czech Republic. The conference focused on the evolution, taxonomy, biology, genetic variation, host resistance, population diversity, epidemiology, chemical and biological control of downy mildews and some related plant-pathogenic oomycetes. Regular oral

presentations were published in a separate volume entitled: *Advances in Downy Mildew Research*, Vol. 3 (A. Lebeda and P.T.N. Spencer-Phillips, Eds., Palacký University in Olomouc, 2007, 278 pp., ISBN 80-86636-19-4).

Knowledge of downy mildew pathogens, and the plant diseases they cause, has advanced substantially since publication of the book: *The Downy Mildews*, edited by D.M. Spencer (Academic Press, 1981). Over the last 25 years, many aspects of downy mildew biology have been investigated, and progress in some areas has been summarized in three volumes of the text: *Advances in Downy Mildew Research* (2002, 2004 and 2007). However, expansion of knowledge about downy mildews provided an opportunity to organize the Second International Symposium, and to publish this volume which contains 14 invited review and original research papers presented by keynote contributors. The result is a book comprehensively updating understanding across a wide spectrum of the most important advances, designed to provide a balanced overview of the subject area.

We hope that it will be of use to students, academics and researchers in plant pathology, mycology, crop protection, taxonomy, plant biology and ecology, as well as to others involved in the agricultural and horticultural advisory services and industry.

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