

WEISER J.: AN ATLAS OF INSECT DISEASES

*Academia, Publ. House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, 1969,
45 p., 502 Figs., price 100,— Kčs*

Insect diseases are a very important factor in the population dynamics of individual species and a more intensive attention has been rightly given to them in recent years. A deeper study of insect pathology has also its practical import, because some causative agents of diseases can be used in biological control. The appearance of an atlas of insect diseases, which would contain a most substantial pictorial documentation, is therefore only to be welcomed. The author, who has been actively engaged in studying the given problems for two decades, assembled in this book about 500 photographs, mostly from his laboratory by origin, depicting the most important representatives of causative agents of insect diseases. It is the pictorial part which carries weight in the whole publication. The textual part is quite brief, including 29 pages which contain an introductory chapter and six chapters dealing with individual groups of pathogenic agents: fungi, bacteria, rickettsiae, viruses, protozoans and helminths. The chapters contain characteristics of the whole group and its representatives, concerning the development, morphology, hosts, disease symptoms etc. This part is followed by a survey of literature, subject index and the pictorial part proper. The latter depicts the pathogenic agents in preparations, tissue sections, cultivation media and the afflicted insects with typical disease symptoms. All figures are accompanied by explanatory notes. Many photographs were provided by electron microscopy. Unfortunately not all photo-

tographs were well reproduced and a number of them did not come out sharp enough.

For eventual second edition I have a few critical remarks, mostly to the pictorial part of the book. Figures of all species belonging to the same genus should be placed one after another in order to achieve a better arrangement. The explanatory notes should uniformly include the author's name with each species whenever it is stated or rather when it is first mentioned. A certain re-arrangement would be also useful in the names of hosts which are sometimes given in Latin, sometimes both in Latin and English and sometimes merely in English. A correct spelling of specific names according to the new nomenclature is *kuehniella* (Fig. 277 and next) and *lheritieri* (p. 35 and Fig. 497). It is unsuitable to use two names for an identical causative agent (e.g. *Vagoia-operophterae* virus — Fig. 71, *Vagoiavirus operophterae* — Figs. 77 and 78). Fig. 144 is reproduced upside down. Sometimes some inaccuracies occurred in the Latin names (e.g. *bombycie* — Fig. 24, *cantas* — Fig. 105, *cunae* — Fig. 395).

I am sure that despite some shortcomings mentioned above the book will arouse an interest not only in insect pathologists alone, but also in specialists of related scientific fields as well as in all persons concerned with insects. The English version of the text will facilitate the circulation of the book among scientists abroad.

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