

REFERENCES

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J. Weiser: An atlas of insect diseases.

Publ. House Academia, Prague and Dr. W. Junk, Publishers, The Hague 1977, 240 pp. 400 Figs. Price 125.— Kčs

Weiser's "Atlas of Insect Diseases" was first published by Academia, the Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, in 1969 and soon became a book sought after not only in this country and abroad, but quite unavailable as well. Therefore, the appearance of its second edition thanks to the cooperation between Academia and Dr. W. Junk, Publishers, The Hague, is to be welcomed, making it available all over the world.

"Atlas of Insect Diseases" summarizes the author's over twenty years' experience in insect pathology, a scientific field of primary importance both from theoretical and practical aspects. Although the "Atlas" is mostly a pictorial publication, it may be designated as a sort of mini-encyclopedia of insect pathology. This is evident from the titles of individual chapters in the text section: "General remarks on insect diseases"; "Diagnosis of insect infections"; "Techniques of preparation of insect pathogens"; "Isolation of insect pathogens"; "Experimental infections"; "Special adaptations for the distribution and survival of pathogens", which are followed by special chapters devoted to particular groups of organisms pathogenic to insects, such as viruses, rickettsiae, bacteria, fungi, protozoans and worms. Special chapters comprise information on biology and taxonomy of

particular groups of pathogens and list their main representatives.

The pictorial section of the "Atlas" includes 400 photographs, the majority being the author's material, while the rest are the photographs supplied by Weiser's co-workers or some other specialists in insect pathology. The photographic material of the "Atlas" shows in a representative way the symptoms of main insect diseases and main pathogens. Macrophotographs depict a general appearance of infected insect representatives and their behaviour. Photomicrographs reveal detailed pathological symptoms in tissues and cells and demonstrate individual pathogens under optical and electron microscopes. 85 photographs are devoted to viruses, 12 to rickettsiae, 20 to bacteria, 86 to fungi, 162 to protozoans and 35 to parasitic worms. This corresponds well with the relative importance of individual pathogens in insect control.

The re-edition of any book is the most objective criterion of its qualities and of its urgent need. Weiser's book, due to the fact that it contains many year's experience of one of the prominent researchers in this scientific field, definitely does and will yet long belong to basic literature on pathology and parasitology of insects.

Dr. J. Vávra, C.Sc.