

of proofs by authors are all too important to be skipped in a volume like this. I have seen invalidly published 'new combinations' in previous AETFAT (*Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale*), proceedings which would not have passed a good editor with nomenclatural experience. Another small point is that the exact publication date is not given, as far as I could see. There is 'copyright 1996' on the Reverse of Title Page, and on the first page of every paper. Well and good, but, for priority in nomenclature we might need to know a more precise date of publication. The slip from the publisher which came with my review copy gave the publication date as 20 June 1995 which from the date at the bottom of the Foreword by the editors (March 1996) and the copyright date, I assume is wrong.

The themes of African plants, research and collaboration which run through almost every paper in this volume reflect the aims of AETFAT. Despite its changes in composition through the second half of this century, the organization continues to thrive. The diversity of papers in this symposium are perhaps the best reflection of the widespread support of those aims and the health of the organization. The growing number of contributors with addresses in Africa in each successive AETFAT proceedings also bode well for the future of botany in Africa. In a time when taxonomy is becoming more and more important and yet we taxonomists are continually suffering from a lack of recognition I will end with my favourite quote from this book (Beentje: 108): 'without continuing work in alpha-taxonomy everything else is based on quicksand'.

#### Reference

VERDCOURT, B. (1996). Book review: *African Safari*. *Biodiversity Letters* 3: 204–205.

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**Exercises in Plant Disease Epidemiology.** Edited by Leonard J. Franel and Deborah A. Ncher. 1997. 242pp., 67 line drawings; ISBN 0 89054 224 4. S79 (spiral-bound).

Reviewing an exercise volume like the above is in some respects comparable to reviewing a cook book: only after trying all the recipes can one really assess their impact. It would be impossible to carry out all the exercises in this laboratory manual in a short time span, and this review must therefore be restricted to the more obvious features of the work.

The book is divided into five main topics: 1, measuring pathogen populations and disease; 2, temporal, and 3, spatial aspects of epidemiology; 4, host–parasite dynamics; and 5, yield loss and management. Each of these topics is arranged in a number of chapters (between three and nine), totalling 34. The chapters have been contributed by 29 authors from the international plant pathology community. The book is

accompanied by four floppy disks which hold software and data for some of the exercises referred to in the book. The chapters are organized along a common pattern, setting out preparation, introduction, procedure, and evaluation of particular aspects of epidemiology. There is also a bibliography with each chapter. Some of the chapters describe computer exercises and simulations, where the reader has the opportunity to 'play' with offered data or supply data sets where available. Other chapters deal with laboratory exercises using little or no computer support, and other exercises are a combination of the two approaches. Similarly, there is a great variety in soft- and hardware requirements to carry out the exercises. The book has a well prepared appendix containing the solutions to exercises and discussing specific tasks set in the individual chapters, and a limited index. More material is presented only in electronic form on the computer disks with structures and formats of their own.

The book aims to supply students, instructors and scientists interested in learning principles and quantitative methods of plant-disease epidemiology with learning tools and models of programmes used in modern disease-simulation experiments and forecasting technology. I am confident that the book will fulfil this aim. Some of the computer experiments I could run on my limited software might be a degree simplistic, but they show principles otherwise difficult to explain. It is here that the theorists will find their delight. Several statistical and probabilistic models as well as chaos theory are being exploited. On the other hand, a number of practical exercises are included, which less resourceful users will appreciate. Inevitably, there are some models which only reflect outcomes in very specific (and barely realistic) environmental and host-pathogen conditions; however, the book does not claim to solve all or any particular plant disease problems, nor could it possibly do so.

My major criticism of this publication is the fact that a number of exercises depend on the reader having access to software which might well be easily available in the United States, but cannot be taken for granted elsewhere. It thus relies on the user to obtain further software tools, a fact which immediately impedes access to exercises, and must limit its usefulness for many plant pathology instructors globally.

Despite the above criticism I do believe that this exercise volume will be of great value in teaching and training, providing readers do not substitute it for plant pathology experience in the real world among real plants and real plant pathogens.

S. HELFER

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**Glossary of Plant Pathological Terms.** M. C. Shurtleff and C. W. Averre III. Heverlee, Belgium: APS Press. 1997. 361 +4pp. ISBN 0 89054 176 0. \$62 (hardback).

This glossary of terms used in plant pathology surpasses all expectations. It is more than a mere glossary and would be classed as a dictionary if it contained the systematic names of organisms, literature references, and some further explanations of