

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.

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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

theoretical nature. After a short preface, the book is a solid reference containing around 7,000 terms used in plant pathology. These necessarily include terms of wider biological importance (e.g. DNA) or of specific disciplines often associated with plant pathology but not specifically plant pathological (e.g. mycology, microscopy, nomenclature). Most terms are explained in simple English, with the occasional cross references to other terms in the glossary. Some of these are made without further explanation, (e.g. 'Priorable – see Legitimate'). As annoying as these cross references are, I believe that they are unavoidable in such a work. For many terms a simple illustration could have helped in clarifying the meaning, but these are absent. Some terms are restricted to American usage or are of little relevance to plant pathology (e.g. 'peck' being explained as an American measure of volume). As unfortunate as such parochialisms are, they are overall of little importance in this publication.

The book reflects the experiences of two long careers in plant pathology. As a consequence the authors have included words that are now obsolete, but which a reader might encounter in older literature. In contrast new, only recently coined terms, are explained and give the book a modern edge.

This publication will be useful for dedicated students in plant pathology as well as specialists in other fields who need to know precise definitions of plant pathological terms. Given the choice, I would personally prefer a plant pathology dictionary, containing the names of organisms and their relationships as well as the terms used in their study.

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**Plant Crib 1998.** T. C. G. Rich and A. C. Jermy. Botanical Society of the British Isles. 1998. 392pp. ISBN 0 901158 28 3. £25 (softback).

This new identification guide has been produced as a guide for recorders working on the Atlas 2000 Project, which will be one of the most important botanical publications since the last Atlas. It is a combination of the two earlier identification manuals and the *BM Fern Crib* and a lot more additional information has been added. It is not just a minor revision of the last *Plant Crib* but a major reworking of many of the accounts incorporating much recent work. It draws attention to taxonomic problems and suggests how best to record them. The work aims to augment rather than duplicate Stace's *New Flora of the British Isles* and the standard Botanical Society of the British Isles handbooks. The book has a soft cover in blue, the text is sharp and easy to read and the drawings and silhouettes are quite clear and the paper is of good quality.

The introduction of this book gives much useful information regarding conservation, practical hints on plant collecting and general useful tips in dealing with rare and critical groups. Because much of this work is new and largely untried it is inevitable that some small inaccuracies will have been made. For instance, in the