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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

INTERACTIONS OF PLANT RESISTANCE AND PARASITOIDS AND PREDATORS OF INSECTS by D. J. Boethel and R. D. Eikenbary, Editors. 224 pp. Ellis Horwood Limited 1986. ISBN 0-85312-836-7, £32.50.

Plant resistance and biological control are important components of integrated pest management, but they are usually studied separately. This book contains ten papers which show how breeding for plant resistance to herbivorous insects and mites can also affect entomophagous species. The effects of physical and chemical plant characteristics on the interactions between trophic levels are discussed.

All the papers except one were presented at a symposium during the XVII International Congress of Entomology, held in Hamburg in August 1984, and the book has kept the rather clumsy title of the symposium. The closing comments of Eikenbary have been omitted and there is an additional paper on parasitism of aphids on oats by Huey-Ling Kuo.

The papers are by the leading researchers in the field, and it is most useful to have their contributions brought together in one volume. The papers are concise and complement each other well; they include theoretical and experimental work with a range of approaches. Although typographical errors are common, it is an exciting and stimulating text that can be read straight through and will be of interest to ecologists and biologists in a wide range of fields. It will be particularly valuable for researchers and students in pest management and insect ecology. This book should promote awareness of the field and may help to stimulate new ideas and further research.

W. D. J. KIRK
24 June 1986

ORGANIC TRACE ANALYSIS, by Klaus Beyermann, Translation editor: R. A. Chalmers. Ellis Horwood, Chichester. £35-00. ISBN 0 853126380.

This book is intended to introduce students and others to the rapidly growing field of organic trace analysis. To do this the author starts by evaluating the importance and difficulties of the subject using a statistical literature survey. This is followed by a very useful section for any student, on the precision and calibration of methods, and general good laboratory practices including guidance in writing clear concise reports of experiments. The remainder of the book is devoted to methods of sampling and the techniques available for organic trace analysis. All the usual modern analytical methods are described, and after each one a number of references are given to published papers concerned with experiments in which the method has been used to deal with a specific problem. The student therefore becomes aware of the potential uses of all aspects of chromatography, mass spectrometry, spectroscopy, biological methods, etc. both in the laboratory and also occasionally in field experiments such as the use of lasers to monitor the earth's atmosphere. The whole book is clearly written and very readable and any student who uses it as an introduction to the field of organic trace analysis will receive a sound grounding in the subject. At £35 it is probably a little expensive for an impecunious student although it would make an ideal birthday present. The author is to be congratulated on producing a book which not only contains good descriptions of a whole range of modern analytical techniques but also a considerable amount of sound common sense.

IAN BUTLER

CADMIUM IN THE ENVIRONMENT. Part II: Health Effects. Edited by Jerome O. Nriagu. 908p. Wiley-Interscience, New York and Chichester. £85.00. I.S.B.N. 0-471-0554.

This book is one of a series upon cadmium, zinc and copper in the environment. Each element is treated in two parts viz., Part I: Ecological Cycling and Part II: Health Effects. Both parts of each

are of great interest to all those individuals concerned with the impact of these substances upon the global environment.

The present book, Part II of the consideration of Cadmium, comprises 17 chapters dealing with itai-itai disease, clinical signs, symptoms and prognosis of cadmium poisoning, absorption, distribution and sites of deposition in the mammalian body, metabolism and toxicity, biochemistry of Cd in mammalian systems, effects upon specific organs such as the kidney, lungs and bone, immunological, teratogenic and mutagenic effects and pathological effects.

While the predominant concern is that of human health, there is much to interest zoologists, chemists and others concerned with trace element residues and the biological effects of cadmium. Thus, for example, in the matter of sampling, sample storage and treatment, especially in the avoidance of contamination during preparation for analysis. Its 908 pages contain a remarkable amount of information: a process markedly assisted by the judicious use of small type faces.

Unlike many contemporary books it is well indexed, and is undoubtedly a good buy.

E. J. PERKINS