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 Book reviews
 

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**Asada, Y.; Bushnell, W. R.; Ouchi, S.; Vance, C. P. (eds.): Plant Infection. The Physiological and Biochemical Basis.** Berlin Heidelberg New York: Springer 1982. XVIII + 362 pp., several figs. and tabs. Hard bound DM 126,-.

This is one of the most complete and up-to-date books at present available on the physiological and biochemical basis of plant infection. It covers the recent findings in broad areas of research on physiological plant pathology and contains papers on initial interactions during penetration, hypersensitive responses of plants containing resistance genes, the role of phytoalexins and preformed compounds in disease specificity, the role of toxins in metabolism regulation, the relation between disease determinants and symptoms and genetical background of plant infection. In addition to these general topics it contains perspectives on plant disease physiology and biochemistry by the two distinguished scientists, Professors K. Tomyama and I. Uritani, to whom this book is dedicated. This book is essentially the proceedings of a U.S.-Japan seminar held May 17-22, 1981, in Brainerd, Minnesota. Most of the papers include original results. This volume brings together information on new approaches for the investigation of host-pathogen interrelations in a form useful to a research scientists.

Y. M. Plotnikova, Moscow

**The Winged Bean. A High Protein Crop for the Tropics, 2nd edn.** Report of an Ad Hoc Panel of the Advisory Committee on Technology Innovation, Board on Science and Technology for International Development, Commission on International Re-

lations. National Research Council. Washington D.C.: National Academy Press 1981. 41 pp., several figs., 7 tabs.

Since 1975 when the first edition of "The Winged Bean, A High-protein Crop for the Tropics" was published, new information has become available, warranting a new edition of the report. 'It remains, however, an introduction to the plant and not a detailed review of all winged bean knowledge. Its main purpose is to acquaint administrators and uninitiated researchers with the plant and its promise', as is rightly formulated in the preface.

The booklet presents a summary, followed by chapters on agronomy, and food use and nutritive value, whereas information on pests and diseases is listed in an appendix, followed by a list of selected readings.

In bringing the winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* (L.) DC.) to the attention of a broad audience this booklet is already successful. It is clear that this particular legume merits attention because of its many useful parts: tuberous roots, leaves, pods, and seeds. Information on the various aspects of the plant is presented in an easily digestible manner, and with the selected list of literature the winged bean reader can dive into the particular aspects in which he is interested.

The pretention that the winged bean may one day become as significant as the soybean in world agriculture seems to be an overstatement, the more so as soybean cultivars have been developed which thrive well in the lowland humid tropics.

Readers who, after reading this booklet, prefer a balanced treatment of all aspects relevant to winged bean cultivation are referred to "Winged Bean Production in the Tropics" by T. N. Khan, published by FAO (Plant Production and Protection Paper no. 38, 1982).

E. Westphal, Wageningen