

BOOK REVIEW

Kono, T., and C. S. Papp. 1977. *Handbook of Agricultural Pests*, Sacramento, California Dept. of Food and Agriculture. 205 pp., paperback.

This is not a *Handbuch* in the traditional German sense, a compendium, leather bound in 14 volumes. It is a handbook in the Anglo-Saxon sense, one that comes readily to hand, pocket-sized, usable at anytime, in any place. It is an admirable little book with a foreword by G. T. Okumura of the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, who points out that it is intended to help agriculturists, farm advisors, students, and pest identifiers. It is a refinement of a manual prepared in 1976 for survey biologists taking a one-day training course, covering corn, alfalfa, clovers, barley, oats, rye, wheat, soybean, citrus and home gardens in the western U.S. and Hawaii. Since many of the pests are widespread, the book can help identifiers elsewhere. There is an impressive list of acknowledgements which includes the names of 42 scientists from several countries. The indexes list common names grouped by types and scientific names alphabetically, and the all-important illustrations are well drawn and printed, with a few exceptions, of good, useful size. Wherever possible the authors put the descriptions, often very short, on the same or the facing page with the appropriate illustration. This wastes a little paper but makes the book more

usable. For the insects and mites there are very brief, introductory sections on life-cycles, characteristics, importance, collecting, mounting, and identifying.

Seven aphids are listed with their recent changes of names but wisely they are discussed under the old names. The aphids are first keyed in simplified form into four subfamilies, as in M. A. Palmer's *Aphids of the Rocky Mountain Region*, but only the 13 genera of Aphidinae and 2 of Eriostomatinae are dealt with in detail. Where necessary there are sub-keys to viviparous females, alate and apterous. Twenty-nine references are cited. A single key with 26 references is enough for the 21 spp. of thrips but the 27 spp. of mites are less straightforward, covering 5 spp. of Eriophyoids, 1 Eupodid, 1 Acarid, 2 Tenupalpids, and 18 Tetranychids, with 19 references. Ten slugs and 12 snails are keyed, drawn, and described, with instructions for preservation and 26 references.

There is no indication of price for non-Californians.

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