

## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Handbook of Mites of Economic Plants: Identification, Bio-ecology and Control**

Vacante V., 2016. CABI, Wallingford, UK. 872 pp.  
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Mites are among the most harmful pests on several plants. With over 45,000 described species, they are responsible of a significant portion of economic losses on food, fibre, industry crops and require expensive, and sometimes not well documented, pest control measures. The morphology, biology and ecology of mite pests is a necessary knowledge for students, researchers and technicians involved in plant production for food and feed, for fibre and wood, and for ornamental plants.

Despite an increasing number of specific scientific contributes, there was a lack of a comprehensive and detailed text on this argument. *The Handbook of Mites of Economic Plants* covers this gap and, though it is clear the practical purpose of the text, explores in depth both general and applied topics, to the point that, with its 872 pages, can be defined as an encyclopaedia of acarology of economic plants. Vincenzo Vacante - one of the best known acarologist of the international scenario - has been assisted, in his work, by a considerable worldwide network of specialists.

The book is split in two part. The first part, divided into 11 chapters, covers mite systematics, their external and internal morphology, the fundamental aspects of mite biology and ecology, the strategies of mite control, and a brief history of worldwide economic acarology.

A very useful part deals the collection, detection, preparation and rearing of mites. The last chapter discusses a classification scheme of the subclass Acari and proposes a key for the identification of the major taxa. The second part of the book provides an encyclopaedic reference to the major families of mites that are injurious to economic plants. 16 families and 73 genera, including 23 Eriophyidae and 16 Tetranychidae, are described. For each species, detailed information on: common names, diagnostic characteristics, geographical distribution, host plants, bio-ecology, symptomatology, and control methods (biological, chemical and IPM), are provided. A huge bibliography guides the reader in the deepening of specific items.

The contents of the book are exhaustive of the updated scenario about economic acarology. The schematic design of the chapters and subchapters and the writing style simplicity makes the book an essential tool for researchers, taxonomists, and technicians (IPM extension service) involved with mites of economic plants. This book also represent an important resource for entomology and crop protection students.

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