

Literature

Alford, D. V. 1991: A Colour Atlas of Pests of Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Flowers. 448 pp., 10 black-and-white illustrations, 1059 colour illustrations. Size 20.0 × 26.5 cm. — Wolfe Publishing Ltd., London. ISBN 0.7234-1643-5. Price GBP 75.

Whether we are in charge of a public garden or an orchard, or just have a garden of our own or some precious indoor plants, we care about these plants and like to see them flourish. However, our plants are inevitably regarded as a standing invitation to a meal by various kinds of animals, which we then refer to as pests. Since most pests are insects, this book deals mainly with this group of animals.

A short introduction describes the different taxa of animals treated in the book, i.e. most insect orders. The non-insect organisms are briefly mentioned, viz.: woodlice, millipedes, symphylids, nematodes, slugs and snails, earthworms, birds and mammals. The pests are treated in taxonomic groups. The book provides data on the plant species attacked, descriptions of adults and immature stages, information about the damage and methods of control, and illustrations in colour of the pests and the damage they cause to plants. The book finishes with a selected bibliography comprising some 90 works, and index of host plants as well as a general index.

This book is not an ordinary insecticide spray manual. The author has emphasized the pest *per se*, with general guidance for control — most often brief data on the type of chemical control. Moreover, one kindly method for the “biological control” of e.g. larger Lepidopteran larvae is described, i.e. removing the larvae gently and transferring them to a new wild host plant to complete their development.

The book is a good guide for identifying pests on plants and will be useful to both amateurs and professional gardeners, and also to entomologists interested in this group of animals. The illustrations are of high quality and enable the reader to identify the animals and to handle them properly. The only minor negative criticism is the so-called selected bibliography, which needs an updating. To conclude, this is a well-produced very fine and useful book, which will be attractive to a wide range of readers, and which is available at a reasonable price.

Ulf Carlberg