

## Literature

Menken, S. B. J., Visser, J. H. & Harrewijn, P. (Eds.) 1992: Proceedings of the 8th International Symposium on Insect-Plant Relationships. — Series Entomologica, vol. 49. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, Boston & London. 436 pp., 81 figs., 43 tables. Size 15.5 × 24.0 cm. ISBN 0-7923-2099-9. Price DFL 250.00.

Insect-plant interaction is an important issue, since many phytophagous insects are pests and thus a potential threat to the human economy. Moreover, and probably more importantly, the insects and their food plants, as an important part of the ecological system, contribute to biological diversity. This publication is the outcome of the 8th International Symposium on Insect-Plant Relationships, held in Wageningen (The Netherlands) in March 1992. The meeting attracted some 200 scientists from 26 countries. A total of around 130 contributions are included in this volume.

It is far from easy to summarize such a wide field of information. The editors have been aware of this fact and have wisely divided the contents into five main sections. The first section, dealing with insect-plant communities, discusses *inter alia* various aspects of the herbivore populations like climate, predators, chemical defence in the insects, and the many and varied defences possessed by plants. The next section deals with host-plant selection, where topics like search behaviour, chemical recognition, olfactory responses, electroantennogram and oviposition stimulants, etc. are discussed. Genetics and evolution are treated in the third section, where the phylogeny of insect-plant interactions, host race and the secondary defences of plants are discussed. The fourth section deals with the important topics of host plant resistance and the appli-

cation of transgenic plants, where genetically manipulated plants are studied with respect to herbivorous insects. The microbiological symbioses in phytophagous insects are then treated as an example of multitrophic interactions. Finally, the results from a workshop are summarized, topics like the chemistry of insect-plant interactions, insect behaviour and specialization in herbivorous insects being treated. Each article contains its own list of references. A list of the participants is included, as well as a general index and an author index.

This volume constitutes a good summary of the field of insect-plant relationships and covers a wide field. However, as a direct result of the large number of contributors, the average size of the articles is only around 3–4 pages. This has the detrimental effect of ruling out any longer discussion on the various topics. On the other hand, and what should be considered a positive consequence, a wide field is covered. The quality of the illustrations varies according to the author, but this is a general problem with conference books and should not be regarded as too critical. The price is reasonable. For those seeking a modern overview into the field of insect-plant interaction, this little book will provide an excellent start. With the lists of participants and references, more detailed studies will be easy.

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