

## BOOK REVIEW

### **České a anglické názvy chorob a škůdců rostlin Czech and English names of plant diseases and pests**

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In every scientific discipline the precise and rational communication of scientific information is based primarily on generally accepted, easily available and published nomenclature. Plant medicine, the study of plant diseases and pests, also requires an agreed-upon and accepted set of common names of plant diseases and pests for communication not only to the professional community, but to the lay public and educational community.

The first attempt at the creation of a Czech nomenclature of plant diseases and disorders occurred during the first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century. A more focused and systematic approach to plant diseases and pest nomenclature appeared in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century (doc. Dr. František Straňák, 1922, and Prof. Jaroslav Smolák, 1950). While these were improvements over the early lists, they still were not complete. The difficult and extremely large project to characterise the common names of plant diseases and pests in the Czech Republic is a subject of the recently reviewed book. The coordinator and leading editor of this compendium was Prof. VÁCLAV KŮDELA, an extraordinary Czech phytopathologist. Under his guidance, very broad revisions of Czech nomenclature of diseases, disorders and injuries of plants were completed during 1998–2010. In addition, there an elaborated “Rules for revision, creation, codification and utilization of Czech nomenclature of diseases, disorders and injuries of plants”, was accepted by the Branch of Plant Medicine of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences in 2004. These steps created the background for development of the first comprehensive monograph for Czech plant medicine nomenclature, including a parallel English version.

This book represents the first comprehensive treatment of Czech nomenclature of plant diseases and pests based on scientific and precisely formulated principles. In addition to the editors, 25 other authors and 10 reviewers were involved in the preparation of the final volume. The majority of these scientists and professionals are members of Czech agricultural research institutes, universities and professional institutions, all working in various branches of plant medicine. The book is divided into three main parts. The first part is represented by the “Rules for revision, creation, codification, and utilisation of Czech nomenclature of diseases, disorders and injuries of plants”, and is supplemented by the historical development of Czech nomenclature of plant diseases. The second part is represented by a large tabular survey of more than 3000 plant diseases and pests known to occur on 206 plant species. The structure of this book, which is based on categorisation of plants according to the five groups of crops (field crops, vegetable species, fruit tree species, aromatic special crops, and ornamental plants), makes working with this book relative easy. Each crop has own numerical code and every group is introduced by the survey of polyphagous common pest species. For individual crops, the same structure and sequence of harmful agents (abiotic, viruses, bacteria, fungi, and oomycetes, pests) is used. Each plant disease and harmful agent has a Czech common name and official scientific name, as well as an English common name. A substantial list of diseases and pests, crop loss assessment and economic importance peculiar to Central Europe is also included. The last part of the book contains three detailed indices.

The book constitutes an extraordinary attempt, at the national and international scales to unify the nomenclature of plant diseases and pests. Without any doubt, it will be an extremely valuable source of information, as well as serving as background for future discussions and development in this area. It is recommended, for those working in plant medicine, including plant pathologists, entomologists, biologists and ecologists. University students, lecturers, researchers, professionals in governmental institutions, will benefit also from this resource. In conclusion, this book summarises important recent information about plant medicine nomenclature and it is highly recommended to a broad agricultural audience. The editors, authors and Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences did an excellent job on this book.

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