

BOOK REVIEW

KUDELA V. & BRAUNOVÁ M. (eds.) 2007: **Česko-anglická rostlinolékařská terminologie. Czech-English Plant Health Terminology.** Praha: Academia, 876 pp. ISBN 978-80-200-1550-1. Price 1290 CZK

This large book is a comprehensive bilingual glossary of 7,100 terms used in the various branches of plant medicine, an important discipline. It is the result of an intensive and long-term cooperative study by 33 authors, all outstanding specialists of various scientific disciplines and their applications, under the leadership of two editors, Prof. Václav Kůdela and Dr. Marcela Braunová. The whole book, all terms and their definitions were evaluated by 34 referees. The list of the authors and referees is presented on the first page of the book. This book was published with the financial support of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

In the Preface the editors define the main objectives of the discipline called in English “plant medicine” (in Czech: “rostlinolékařství”) is to look after the health of crops, secure the good quality of crops and forest products, and ensure that food derived from plants is safe. They describe the history and gradual development of the work on this book that has taken nearly ten years. In the part called User’s Guide there are recommendations on how to use the book and find particular terms.

The stimulus for writing a book on the definitions of terms and terminology used in plant protection came from the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Plant Medicine Section when the participants at this meeting expressed a need to standardize Czech terms in plant medicine and to improve communication among specialists and across scientific disciplines. It was emphasized that the terminology used in Czech plant health has to be consistent with international terminology as defined by international plant health organizations or recommended by such professional organizations as the Federation of British Plant Pathologists and the American Phytopathological Society.

The book is divided into six large but unequal parts each of which is subdivided into several smaller units or subchapters. Each page is arranged in two columns of which the left involves terms and their definitions in the Czech language and the right includes corresponding terms and definitions in English. Each term has a numerical code, definition and a number in parentheses indicating the source of the definition. For better understanding, some terms are accompanied by a reference to a figure. At the end of each unit there is a bibliography of the fundamental sources in the literature that were used in the compilation of the subchapter and a list of terms in English in alphabetical order with Czech equivalents.

The first part, which makes up nearly half of the book, includes characteristics of pathogens, pests, weeds and agents causing disorders and injuries. In eleven subchapters there are definitions of terms referring to living organisms, viz. viruses, prokaryotes, fungi and fungal-like organisms, nematodes, mites, insects, molluscs, mammals and birds, and abiotic agents, disorders, injuries and weeds.

The second part is devoted to the symptoms of diseases, disorders and injuries. In the third part the interactions between plants and pathogens and plants and pests are described. The fourth part includes definitions used in diagnostics in field and laboratory. The fifth part includes the measures used to control plant diseases, pests and weeds. The sixth part of the book called “Sociology of plant health care” is devoted to plant health institutions, organizations and professions. At the end of this publication there is a bibliography referring to all parts of the book and to web pages and a cumulative Czech index with English equivalents, which includes more than thirteen thousand terms.

As far as I know this book is the first devoted to the problems of plant medicine based on such a broad concept. In the future it is likely to serve as the basis for an encyclopedia on plant medicine.

It would be surprising if such an extensive work compiled by many authors and their collaborators over a long period of time does not have some imperfections and shortcomings, for example, some terms lack definitions, comment or explanation directly after the term, some citations lack date of publication, references for some subchapters are not arranged alphabetically. It is debatable whether the use of the term “sociology” in the title of the Part VI, which is devoted to organizations that take care of plant health, is acceptable. Sociology or social science is the scientific discipline studying human society and human social activities. It is more acceptable to use the following title for Part VI: “Organization of plant health care”.

This large book is a comprehensive glossary of plant medicine containing a wide spectrum of specialist or technical terms and their definitions. It will be useful to all who work on or are interested in plant pathogens, animal pests, weeds and in the care of plant health. It will be valuable also for students and teachers at universities, researchers, translators, editors of international and national scientific periodicals, as well as state administrators and plant health practitioners.

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