

JANSSON, R. K., AND K. V. RAMAN (eds.). 1991. Sweet Potato Pest Management. A Global Perspective. Westview Press, Boulder, CO. xv + 458 p. ISBN 81-204-0635-4. hardback. \$85.00.

This edited volume brings together contributions by some of the world's foremost experts on sweet potato pests. The contributors to this volume are mostly American, but there is representation from Africa, Asia and South America, and the perspective provided reflects much more than the North American view of sweet potato as a minor or specialty vegetable crop. In this volume "pests" is considered to be insects and nematodes. Plant diseases are considered only in the context of insect vectors; weeds, molluscs, and rodents are not included.

Sweet potato is an important staple food for both humans and livestock in some parts of the world, ranking as the seventh most important crop world-wide. In this book, chapters are included on sweet potato in world nutrition and commerce, and the pest constraints on production. The chapter by D. E. Horton and P. T. Ewell on the social science perspective to sweet potato pest management is especially informative, though it perhaps should have been placed at the beginning rather than the end of the book.

Throughout the world, *Cylas* weevils are a limiting factor to production. This is clearly reflected in the content of this book, in which 12 of the 23 chapters are devoted to these weevils. Such topics as systematics, quarantine, biological control, plant resistance, sampling, chemical ecology, and integrated control are treated in depth. There is also useful information on the coevolution of weevils in relation to the plant family Convolvulaceae, and the physiological and yield responses of sweet potato to insect injury. Although three chapters are devoted to host plant resistance and the efforts to develop useful levels of resistance, it is evident that the rate of progress has

been disappointing. This is particularly important because in many countries of the world this is the only feasible, economic solution to pest protection. The application of pheromone and entomopathogenic nematode technology, though interesting, is not affordable or available in most locations.

Other pests included in this book are another weevil, *Euscepes postfasciatus*; wireworms, vine borers, disease vectors, nematodes, and some relatively minor North American pests such as white grubs and cucumber beetles. This publication is clearly the best source of information on insect pests of sweet potato, and is essential for anyone working with sweetpotato weevil, *Cylas formicarius*.

This book is well edited, and seemingly free of typographical errors. The figures, including photographs, are clear. It is a rich source of references, which are arranged by chapter. A useful and comprehensive index is included.

John L. Capinera
Department of Entomology and
Nematology
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida, 32611