

Mandal, R.C.: **Weed, Weedicides and Weed Control - Principle and Practice.** - Agro Botanical Publishers, Bikaner 1990. 263 pp.

The author, an experienced weed scientist working for many years with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has written a comprehensive handbook for the students of weed science, weed control specialists, extension workers, and even farmers. In the introductory part of his book he elucidates the impact of weeds and their ecology and gives an account of the prevention, eradication and control measures. The following chapters contain the classification and description of the monocot and dicot weeds with a special reference to the parasitic and aquatic species. Each weed plant is briefly characterized and relevant control measures are given. The beneficial and allelopathic effects and economic importance are also mentioned. The allelopathy, as a weed interference with the crops, is treated in a special chapter. The next part deals with the weed control in the crops of importance in India. Emphasis is laid on the application of herbicides, though the traditional weed control techniques are also mentioned, with practical advice for the choice of the weed control in cropping systems.

A survey of the most useful herbicides represents the closing part of the book. It is a pity, that this chapter does not contain any remark on more sophisticated herbicide groups promising for practice, such as sulfonylureas (chlorosulfuron and others), cyclohexanones (alloxydim-Na, sethoxydim *etc.*), pyridyloxy acids (fluroxypyr) or esters of the type of diclofop-methyl, fluzafop-P-butyl and other important grass killers.

Numerous tables, appendices and indexes make it possible for the user easily to find the appropriate information. It is regrettable that these parts were not compiled more carefully. Some printer's errors, even repeated (see promatryne instead of prometryne - p. 207, fluochloralin instead of fluchloralin - p. 190 *etc.*) do not witness a careful work of the proof-reader.

Nevertheless, this book is a really practical guide containing surprising amount of well-arranged information and from this point of view it may serve as a good example for the future authors of such handbooks.

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Van Regenmortel, M.H.V., Neurath, A.R. (ed.): **Immunochemistry of Viruses II. The Basis for Serodiagnosis and Vaccines.** - Elsevier, Amsterdam - New York - Oxford 1990. 544 pp.

The present volume Immunochemistry of Viruses II contains five chapters that review some major advances in viral immunology (*e.g.* the processing of antigens, local immunity, autoimmunity) and three chapters devoted to the applications of recombinant DNA technology and synthetic peptides. The remaining 15 chapters deal with the antigenic structure of the distinct families of viruses.

An important part of this book is devoted to summarizing the advances that have occurred in the serological identification and antigenic analysis of plant viruses.

The individual chapters are written mostly by prominent scientists in the field, as *e.g.* the editors themselves. The book covers all aspects of the problems of the immunochemistry of viruses at all levels with the use of the most modern and reliable techniques.

It is an excellent book which can help understand the viral immunochemistry and the immune response to viral infections and provides the necessary scientific base for designing better diagnostic reagents and better immunogenes for prophylaxis and immunotherapy of viral diseases.

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