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Khan, J.A., Dijkstra, J. (ed.): **Handbook of Plant Virology**. - Food Products Press, An Imprint of the Haworth Press, New York - London - Oxford 2006. xviii + 452 pp., USD 69.95. ISBN 13: 978-1-56022-978-0.

The "Handbook of Plant Virology" represents a valuable source of information about selected topics in plant virology; it is a comprehensive guide to the terms and expressions of plant virology complete with descriptions of plant virus families down to the generic level. The book consists of two sections.

The first section (251 pp.) contains 19 chapters dealing with plant virus taxonomy, internal and external symptoms (with color illustrations), isolation and purification of plant viruses, architecture of plant viruses, replication and gene expression of RNA and DNA viruses and viroids, various methods of virus transmission (by arthropods, fungi, nematodes, seeds and mechanical), detection and identification of plant viruses and disease diagnosis, serology, ecology and epidemiology, recombination in plant viruses, virus variability and evolution, recombinant DNA technology, and control of virus diseases and economic impact.

The second section (190 pp.) is devoted to concise descriptions of the 81 genera and 18 families of plant viruses. It is divided into 5 appendixes: 1. Description of

positive-sense, single-stranded RNA viruses (families *Potyviridae*, *Sequiviridae*, *Comoviridae*, *Luteoviridae*, *Tymoviridae*, *Tombusviridae*, *Bromoviridae*, *Closteroviridae*, *Flexiviridae*, and unassigned genera). 2. Description of double-stranded RNA viruses (families *Reoviridae*, *Partitiviridae*, and unassigned genus). 3. Description of negative-sense, single-stranded RNA viruses (families *Rhabdoviridae*, *Bunyaviridae*, and unassigned genera). 4. Description of single-stranded DNA viruses (families *Geminiviridae* and *Nanoviridae*). 5. Description of reverse-transcribing viruses (families *Caulimoviridae*, *Pseudoviridae* and *Metaviridae*)

The "Handbook of Plant Virology" provides comprehensive approach to a range of topics in plant virology, it is documented with photographs, illustrations, figures, diagrams, and brief, but detailed, bibliographies. This book is very clear, informative and invaluable for all people with an interest in plant virology, as well as for research workers, educators, and students working in plant pathology, crop protection, molecular biology, and plant breeding.

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