

Boland, G.J., Kuykendall, L.D. (ed.): **Plant-Microbe Interaction and Biological Control**. - Marcel Dekker, New York - Basel - Hong Kong 1998. 442 pp. USD 165.00. ISBN 0-8247-0043-0,

Biological control represents promising new area residing in technological application of microbial biotechnology utilizing benefits of fundamental studies of plant-microbe interactions. This reviewed informative book discusses strategies and approaches to the development of effective biological controls for plant diseases. It comprises nineteen contributions covering the role of biodiversity in the rhizosphere and self-regulation mechanisms which lead to improved root health, natural soil suppressiveness of infection, as well as biocontrol of fungal foliar pathogens.

Starting with the consideration on importance of diversity in soilborne microbial communities and its role in the management of root health, the book continues with reviews on biological control of both root and leaf diseases. Main part of the book is devoted to biocontrol of common diseases. Besides fusarium wilts, fusarium dry rot of potatoes, and sclerotial plant pathogens, strategies for biological control of necrotrophic fungal foliar pathogens, and integrated control of powdery mildews are also discussed. Biological control with the most widely used biocontrol agent in the world from fungal genus

*Trichoderma* is the topic of the next article. The reader will then find two chapters dealing with control of postharvest disease of fruits and vegetables. The authors describe the mode of action of biocontrol postharvest agents and tools for broadening the spectrum of activity and increasing the reliability and efficiency of the method. The state-of-the-art on the biocontrol of cucumber mosaic virus disease as it exists at the present time and "pros and cons" of both viral satellite strategy and classical cross-protection are evaluated in next chapter. Follow the questions connected with nitrogen fixating rhizobacteria *Bradyrhizobium* and *Rhizobium*, especially biocontrol of ineffective strains in field. To very important topics discussed in the book undeniably belong also subsequent chapters concerning chitinolytic enzymes of fungi, antifungal metabolites, microbial antagonists for the control of weeds, as well as molecular probes and assays useful to identify biocontrol agents.

This highly informative book provides useful resource for advanced students, lecturers and research workers who are engaged in plant pathology and adjacent fields.

L. BURKETOVÁ (Praha)