

BOOK REVIEWS

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Handbook of Agricultural Entomology. By H. F. Van Emden. Wiley-Blackwell (2013), pp. 334, £66.31. ISBN 9780470659137.

This authoritative and lavishly colour-illustrated handbook by a globally renowned entomologist is a very welcome addition to any agriculturalist, horticulturalist, forester or entomologist's bookshelf. In addition, it has a useful companion website with downloadable illustrations and tables from the book. The book has a unique global coverage on the 'insects that matter' to its intended audience. As the author states, this is a changing field with none of the 'top ten' insect pests of today having that status when he started teaching in the 1950s. The handbook is not one targeted to control of a particular pest problem but rather to symptoms, damage, life histories and identification. It is ordered in relation to subclasses of Insecta subdivided into orders down into families and subfamilies in a very logical and structured manner which allows identification down to family level. This identification is not based on a scientific key but on readily identifiable features and is all the more practical and useful for this approach. After three fairly brief general but informative chapters on the diversity of insects, their external features and their structure and function and the major Insecta divisions, the book moves into the heart of the matter. This consists of ten chapters on the different orders dealing with each logically and clearly in turn. In summary, an excellent, well-illustrated handbook and a highly welcome addition to the literature of a very practical nature.

Keith Dawson

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Leadership in Agriculture: Case Studies for a New Generation. By J. P. Jordan, G. A. Buchanan, N. P. Clarke and K. C. Jordan. Texas A&M University Press (2013), pp. 192, US\$ 30.00, ISBN 978-160344-941-0.

Having a laudable stated focus on leadership issues needed to ensure global food sustainability, and giving recognition to the roles of research and development, government, universities, processing and distribution, this small book adopts an approach and terminology much admired by management and leadership consultants but sometimes intensely irritating when managing innovative scientists.

Even though it is entirely centred on institutions in the USA, and, with the exception of Monsanto, public-sector bodies, it correctly identifies the pivotal role of character in leadership. Those outside the USA will look in vain for leadership features and guidance when dealing with enforced rapid closure of whole institutions, mass redundancies, perpetual financial turbulence, constant political and civil service interference affecting modes of operation and objectives, imposed staff codes and so-called 'performance indicators', aggressive trade unions and pressure groups.

Most of the text concerns nine case studies followed by a chapter on lessons learned from these case studies. A chart summarising the case studies and 27 essential and important attributes of leadership is highly debatable. Most disappointing at the end is the curt description of the agricultural and related environments facing future agricultural leaders, surely integral to the selection of these leaders.

John R. Hillman