multidisciplinary and holistic approach combined with the apparent eagerness of the editors to finally solve the *Striga* problem makes this a highly recommendable book.

Jonne Rodenburg

Micronutrient Deficiencies in Global Crop Production. By B. J. Alloway. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer (2008), pp. 353, £107.50. ISBN 978-1-4020-6859-1. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007187

Although climate change remains top of the environmental and political agenda, one of the other items which remains hot on its heels, is the development of sustainable agricultural and food production systems. Implicit in this debate is the provision of nutritious food to an ever-growing human population. Micronutrient deficiency in both crop plants and the human diet remains a critical issues in many areas of the world, including the developed nations. This book takes a global view of the situation, presenting the latest information. The chapters are authored by world experts in the subject area (e.g., Robin Graham, Ismail Cakmak, Patrick Brown, Ross Welch, etc.). The book starts with a general introduction of the topic and then presents a series of geographical focused studies at the national (e.g. Turkey, USA, China) and continental scale (e.g. Africa, Europe, South America). The book ends with a chapter describing the role of micronutrients in human nutrition and ways in which crop plants can be managed to alleviate malnutrition.

Overall, the book is well written and contains lots of valuable information suitable for a range of audiences. The figures are sometimes of poor quality and the chapters all have a different emphasis owing to the dominant issues in that region.

Whilst this does give the book a disjointed feel at times, it still contains a wealth of information and, in my view, represents a worthy purchase. It will make good reading for many agronomy, plant nutrition and agricultural extension professionals.

Davey Jones

Onions and Other Alliums. 2nd edition. By J. L. Brewster. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2008), pp. 432, £00.00. ISBN s978-1-84593-399-9. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007199

Dr Brewster can be congratulated for an excellent update of his original volume. In many ways the original set the standard for what has become a valuable crop production series. The book still retains its core strength, describing, in the author's words, 'what makes an onion tick', but this is a major revision with much new information. In particular the sections on breeding/genetics and biochemistry are expanded significantly, incorporating much new information on molecular biology; the author managing to seamlessly incorporate it into the original and still make it highly readable. It also illustrates, even with cutbacks in publicly funded research, that there is still a very active Allium research community.

Inevitably, and as the author admits, there is something of a bias to original UK-based research. Given its relatively tiny proportion of world Allium production this perhaps is not ideal, but simply reflects the author's background and significant past investment in R&D (unfortunately no longer the case). I think the author can be forgiven.

Any criticisms? Well, very few. In Chapter 6, 48 pages on onion production, six on leek production, but only three short paragraphs for garlic seems a trifle skewed. An extra table in Chapter 1 would have been helpful to explain taxonomy changes using new molecular biology techniques. There is also some rare confusion about whether species or biotypes are interfertile, and using this, rather imprecisely, as a definition of speciation. But really these are minor and in no way detract from the overall excellence.

Brian Smith

Plant Pathology. Concepts and Laboratory Exercises. 2nd edition. Edited by R. N. Trigiano, M. T. Windham and A. S. Windham. Boca Raton, Fl, USA: CRC Press/Taylor and Francis Group (2008), pp. 558, £ 42.99. ISBN 1-4200-4669-1. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007205

There are many plant pathology textbooks on the market but few with this combination of features. It starts with basic introductory concepts then proceeds through the major groups of pathogens. These are interspersed with laboratory exercise chapters. Other chapters contain case studies, which illustrate the main text. There