
BOOK REVIEWS

Facets of Environmental Problems (Five case studies), Edited by C. R. Krishna Murti, (published by National Committee of SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment), Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi), 1984, pp. 50. Price: not given.

The case studies cover five major environmental problems related to the pollution of our riverine systems, ecotoxicological effects of benzene hexachloride (BHC), environmental control of filariasis, epidemiological studies on malaria and the migration of chloride from tannery waste water to ground water.

The article by Chaudhuri and Chakrabarty deals with the comprehensive study of the Yamuna river basin covering almost all the aspects required for any pollution control management programme. Various stretches of the rivers needing water quality upgrading have been arrived at by comparing the two aspects of classification, desired level based on water-use and the existing water quality. This is the first study of its kind in India and would serve as a model for conducting similar studies in the other river basins in the country.

In his paper Professor Sastry, has dealt with the contamination of ground water by tanneries in Tamil Nadu. The tanneries discharge high amount of TDS (total dissolved solids) into river Palar. Not only the down stream surface water is contaminated from the tannery wastes, but also the well water within the catchment area of Palar downstream upto 3 km. Development of low cost common treatment plant for several small tanneries was suggested. The study, however, does not indicate the rate of TDS in ground water and impact of TDS on soil.

Based on their studies, Rajagopalan and Das concluded that it would be possible to reduce filariasis in Pondicherry by integrated approach to vector control with major emphasis on environmental management. They attempted the cost benefit analysis of their method of environmental upgrading, and the classical methods of using insecticides.

Sharma and his associates studied the epidemiology of malaria and entomology of its vector(s) in Terai district of Uttar Pradesh. It was found that there was a heavy load of the malaria parasite in the area. Vectors susceptibility to the commonly used insecticides DDT and HCH (Hexachlorocyclo hexane) is discussed. It is

concluded that the spraying of residual insecticides should be done with meticulous care; surveillance of malaria cases should be strengthened and major effort should be made to eliminate mosquito breeding centres.

In the last paper Mishra and Haq presented a clinical case study on the accidental BHC (Benzene hexachlorine) poisoning of humans and animals. The diagnosis of poisoning was based on the history of ingestion of BHC contaminated grains, demonstration of the biocide in the food and the soil samples in the storage area and the typical clinical symptoms. It was noted that the wide variation in the clinical picture was due to the extent of exposure of the individuals to the chemical.

The articles are well edited. The compilation will be useful to the Administrators and the Policy makers for waste water management and environmental development for mosquito control.

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Diseases of Crop Plants of Kerala by M. C. Nair and M. R. Menon, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Trichur, Kerala, XIV + 266 pp + XLV, Price Rs. 105.

The book is divided into two parts A and B. Part A has eight chapters dealing with general topics and Part B with 29 chapters dealing with diseases of crop plants. The book is well written and it is a commendable effort on the part of the authors. It is written in simple and lucid language. There are few typographical errors. The drawings and photographs are clear, however, in some places they do not appear self-explanatory (For eg. on Page 63, the name of the causal organism is not given).

The authors should have treated to some extent the nematode infection also. *Loranthus* (Page 11) is not the current name. It is *Denoropthoe*. Page 43 – pump

liver for pump lever. Page 27 – Folpet, Duter and Brestan are not used in India. There are many spelling mistakes like *Tricoderma* and *Heptosphaesia* in the index (XXXIV & XXXV). On page 188 on Cinnamon, *Cytosprilla* is not correct. The current name of Tikka disease is *Cercosporidium personatum* (Berk. & Curt.) Deighton. The diseases mentioned on plantation crops are not complete. There is no need for describing South American leaf blight on p. 265. The authorities

have been omitted in the bionomials.

Inspite of the minor errors pointed out, the book will be educative to farmers and useful to extension workers and students of Plant Pathology in Kerala.

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SCIENCE ACADEMY MEDALS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS—1985

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