

*Book Review***Proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on Insect-Plant Relationships**

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Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands
1996

336 pages

Price: £143 Hardback

ISBN 0-7923-4127-9

Every four years since 1958 research workers from around the world have gathered to exchange ideas and debate issues on the intriguing topic of how insect herbivores interrelate with their host plants.

The ninth, and most recent, such meeting brought 168 participants from 26 countries to Gwatt, Switzerland from 24 to 30 June 1995. At the meeting, some 153 oral and poster presentations, including 12 key-note lectures, were presented and almost half (72) of these were published in *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*, volume 80(1) in 1996. The same papers have now been bound in hard-cover and published as the Proceedings of the Symposium. Through this process, and perhaps unusually for symposium proceedings, each contribution was scrutinised by two independent referees and amended accordingly before publication.

A wide variety of topics are covered in the proceedings.

Besides the introduction and conclusion, the papers have been arranged in eight sections under the following titles: sensory physiology (11 papers); behaviour (12); techniques for sensory physiology and behaviour (5); insect ecophysiology (12), plant variability (11); plant resistance (6); interactions and mutualism (9); and evolution (4). There is a general index and an index of authors, as well as a list of addresses of the registered participants at the Symposium, which very usefully includes many e-mail addresses.

The contributions provide an extremely useful, up-to-date synopsis of the present emphasis of the work and current thinking on some unresolved issues. Although the answers to some long-standing questions, such as why some insect herbivores are monophagous while others are polyphagous, remain elusive, other aspects of research on the interrelationships have flourished. Of particular note are the advances that have resulted from the realisation in recent years that insect-plant relationships are not simply dual systems, but are multitrophic. The interrelationships are influenced not only by the insects and plants, but by the micro-organisms associated with the plants, as well as those associated with the insect herbivores and the natural enemies of the insect herbivores.

For those who can afford it, this well-produced book will be an invaluable source of information for research workers, teachers and students involved with or interested in aspects of insect-plant interrelationships and associated topics. A frustrating, though minor, problem is the fact that many of the papers do not have an abstract or summary.

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