

## BOOK REVIEW

***MANAGEMENT OF PLANT PATHOGEN COLLECTIONS, Shivas, R. & Beasley, D. (2005). Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, GPO Box 858, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. ix + 82 pp. + CD.***

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The wheel is turning and organisations are again recognising that as R.W.G. Dennis said 'Lists of records that cannot be verified are a mere waste of paper.' Specimen-based pest lists are now basic to plant quarantine processes and resolution of health related trade disputes. Article 9 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) requires developed countries to provide technical assistance to developing countries, that are members of WTO, to build capacity in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. This handbook, sponsored by AusAID and the Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer, is a response to this requirement.

The handbook provides guidance on how to collect, isolate, preserve and manage collections of plant

pathogenic bacteria (and phytoplasmas), fungi, nematodes, viruses and viroids and how to use these collections to prepare lists of pathogens by region or host. The collections may be living e.g. culture collections, or dead e.g. in herbaria. The importance of continually updated databases is emphasised and examples of the kinds of information to be included in the database are provided. The bibliography comprises four pages of selected references.

The CD includes copies of the document in Bahasa, Thai and Vietnamese. This is an excellent publication that will surely be widely used in Asia, the Pacific and hopefully Australia.

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