

BOOK REVIEW

POLASZEK A. (ed.): AFRICAN CEREAL STEM BORERS: ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, TAXONOMY, NATURAL ENEMIES AND CONTROL. CAB International, Wallingford, 1998. XII + 530 pp. Hb.: ISBN 0-85199-175-0. Price not stated.

An ecological group of approximately twenty moth species belonging to the two families Pyralidae (mostly Crambinae) and Noctuidae represent the most important cereal pests in tropical parts of Asia and Africa. Especially in the savanna regions of Africa are these moths very serious pests. Their larvae bore into the stems of sorghum, millet, maize and also rice, and are recorded as stem borers. Various traditional and even modern chemical methods of control seem to be often inappropriate.

The new book comprising contributions by 32 authors provides all the basic information for integrated control of the cereal stem borers, with special reference to their natural enemies in the African tropics. The most important original parts of this publication deal with taxonomy of the stem borers (adults and larvae) and, most importantly,

their natural enemies (Hymenoptera, Diptera, Nematoda and some pathogens). The taxonomic and ecological parts of the book are a very stimulative reading, useful not only for applied entomologists. The other chapters of this nicely arranged book provide fundamental information necessary for integrated pest control of all African cereal stem borers. All twenty species are characterized regionally and according to their ecology. Last but not least, illustrated keys for identification of the stem borers and their parasitoids are given. All illustrations are of a high standard. Finally, the modern control measures and research control perspectives are summarized. A comprehensive list of references and a large glossary are very useful for every reader of this book. We can recommend this monograph not only to everybody interested in those integrated pest management in the tropics, because such a book seems to be essential reading for most agricultural entomologists and insect ecologists.

K. Spitzer