
Insect Control by Chemicals. *A. W. A. Brown.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York. First Edition. 1951. i+817 pp. \$12.50.

This ambitious new book on insect control is characterized by a breadth of coverage and novelty of approach that is a credit to its author. Each of the eleven chapters with its list of references cited covers a separate phase of insect control. The first chapter takes up present-day insecticides, starting with the synthetic organics. The relation of the molecular structure of insecticides to their toxicity comprises the second chapter. The next two chapters are physiological; the susceptibility of insects to the entry of poisons and the pharmacology of insecticides for insects. Chapter five discusses the equipment and methods of applying insecticides, while the following chapter covers applications by aircraft. In both these chapters, the physical principles underlying each method of application are stressed and, in most cases, illustrated with specific quantitative data. The toxicity and hazards of insecticides to man and higher animals are taken up in chapter seven, followed by a chapter on phytotoxicity. Recommended insecticides for use on plant-feeders and on pests of men and animals comprise the next two chapters. Although the discussions of specific recommendations are greatly condensed, a surprising amount of up-to-date information has been included. The final chapter takes up the effect of insecticides on the balance of animal populations. The immediate and ultimate effects on wildlife, beneficial insects, and the pest insects themselves are evaluated. A 37-page index completes the volume.

As a stimulating reference this volume should be of value not only to economic entomologists, but also to insecticide chemists and manufacturers, insect physiologists, and toxicologists, pest control operators, and all those interested in the effects of insect poisons on man and the balance of nature. The discussions are always concise yet the author is able to bring out the essential and unexpected information concerning each topic. If the title of the book is to be taken as its aim, we must conclude that every aspect of the control of insects by chemicals has been touched upon and developed in a workmanlike manner.

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