

Preface

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During the last few years, several of us conducting research on plant resistance to insects have discussed the need to inform the public with new information about the benefits of this important management strategy. Perhaps the most vocal and enthusiastic proponent has been former ESA President and plant resistance researcher George Teetes, who has often shared this need at International Plant Resistance to Insects (IPRI) workshops and Section Fa (plant resistance) ESA annual meetings. Excellent information about the benefits of plant resistance to insects was presented by entomologists such as R. H. Painter and P. Luginbill over 25 years ago, but new knowledge about the value of plant resistance needs to be added to the existing data base.

The 1994 ESA Annual Meeting was an opportunity to present recent information about the benefits of plant resistance. A proposal for a symposium entitled *Economic, Environmental, and Social Benefits of Resistance in Field Crops* was submitted to Section F. We also decided that if the symposium proposal were accepted, the proceedings would be published as an ESA Thomas Say Publication.

The proposed symposium was selected as the 1994 R. F. Nelson Memorial Symposium. A few words about Dr. Nelson and the R. F. Nelson Symposium are appropriate. Dr. Nelson was a native of Nebraska and lived between 1903 and 1991. He received a B.S. degree from the University of Kansas, an M.S. from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He was an entomologist with the former USDA Bureau of Entomology in the Truck Crop and Garden Insects Section from 1931 to 1955. He then became Executive ESA Secretary, serving in that capacity from 1955 to 1969. After retirement, he established the Robert F. Nelson Symposium on Crop Protection in Section F of ESA, which became the Robert F. Nelson Memorial Symposium after his death.