Letters

Science Competition Is Tough for Everyone, Not Just Women

I feel compelled to reply to the recent editorial "American Women in Plant Pathology" by Christine T. Stephens (PLANT DISEASE, February 1982, page 95). While it is certainly true that women scientists have suffered from financial and social discrimination over the years, in my own career no instance of it has occurred to my knowledge nor do I feel in any way excluded from "full citizenship." Neither have I heard any specific complaints from my other female colleagues. (Incidentally, six of the ten persons listed as PLANT DISEASE staff are women.)

Science is a challenging and demanding profession. With government and industrial cutbacks in funding, competition for jobs and grant money is intense. But it is tough for everyone, not just women. Besides this, I feel that many women derive great satisfaction from their children and home life and prefer to save much of their time and energy for them while still pursuing an interesting career. They thus choose not to single-mindedly strive for the most prestigious positions with all the traveling and extra hours of work and concentration that that requires. Many men also make the same choice.

Over the years I have received a great deal of help, collaboration, and encouragement from my male colleagues. In science, hard work and insightful and accurate research are rarely discouraged and do not go unrecognized for long. This is especially true in agricultural science. There are too many problems to be solved and a growing world need for high-yield crop production. Perhaps rather than spending time doing studies on discrimination, it would be of more benefit to search for new ways of encouraging capable students of any sex or race to enter the field of plant pathology.

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Climate and Perfect State of *Gremmeniella abietina*

In the March 1982 issue of PLANT DISEASE (page 252), C. E. Dorworth corrected an error made in his article "Status of Pathogenic and Physiologic Races of *Gremmeniella abietina*" (PLANT DISEASE, November 1981, page 927). The correction does not make quite clear the point of interest, ie, the similarity between *G. abietina* in the comparatively continental climate in southeastern Norway and the "North American race" of the fungus and, on the other hand, the similarity of the fungus in the Atlantic climate along the Norwegian southwestern coast, in Great Britain, and in the state of New York in the United States. The perfect state of *G. abietina* is common in the eastern part of southern Norway east of the mountains, where the climate is relatively continental, but very rare in the Atlantic climate along the southwestern coast and in a somewhat similar climate in Great Britain. The conidial state, however, is common both along the Norwegian coast and in Great Britain.

In my opinion, the best way to clarify the information is to cite directly from what I and Helga Roll-Hansen wrote in our article on *Scleroderris lagerbergii* in Norway (4). From page 452:

"From the list [of finds of *Gremmeniella abietina* in Norway] it appears that the perfect state of the fungus seems to be much more rare in southwestern Norway than in the rest of the country. In this connection it is interesting to note that in Great Britain, in a climate similar to that in western Norway, the perfect state has apparently been recorded only once . . . [1], whereas the conidial state is common. Twenty-seven years ago Jørstad . . . [3] pointed to the difference between southwestern Norway and the rest of the country. He wrote that the fungus had particularly damaged *Pinus nigra* and *P. uncinata* ('French mountain pine') along the southwestern coast, and that here (until 1945) only the conidial state had been found. The perfect state had been found especially on *Pinus mugo* (the shrubby form), and *P. sylvestris* in the inland at higher elevations above sea level, and on *P. sylvestris* in northern Norway; in the perfect state, Jørstad wrote, the fungus seemed to act as a secondary, weak parasite. As early as the year 1921 heavy damage on 3-year-old plants of Scots pine was found in a nursery . . . [2]."

G. abietina in the comparatively continental climate in southeastern Norway reminds of the "North American race" of the fungus in Canada and the United States. *G. abietina* along the coast in southwestern Norway reminds of the fungus in Great Britain and the strongly parasitic "European race" on *Pinus resinosa* in the state of New York.

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