Jakob Eriksson (1848-1931) was a Swedish plant pathologist who was internationally recognized as an authority on many fungal diseases of agricultural plants (8). Receiving his PhD from the University of Lund in 1874, he began his 22- year teaching career at the Universities of Lund & Uppsala, and New Elementary School in Stockholm (8). During this time, Eriksson took a botanist position at the Royal Academy of Agriculture Experimental Field in Stockholm where he made his most significant finding—the existence of special forms within morphologically similar species of rust fungi (2,3). This contributed to the understanding of pathogen host specialization and the increased effectiveness of plant breeding programs. Eriksson’s extensive cytological studies of fungal pathogens contributed to the understanding of infection processes in plants and led him to develop a controversial mycoplasm theory (3,4,5). He is attributed to writing among the first grower’s manuals of fungal diseases of agricultural plants, and as being the initial voice in the internationalization of plant pathology (1,6,7). Throughout his career, Eriksson provided remarkable insight into the biology of nearly every plant pathogen in his time. Authoring over 400 publications before his retirement in 1913, he continued research and published a textbook on plant diseases shortly before his last year (7).
References:


