
 Book Reviews

Hulse, J.H. et al.: Sorghum and the Millets: Their Composition and Nutritive Value. London: Academic Press 1980. 867 pp., 38 figs., 514 tabs. Hard bound £ 80.00.

Sorghum and the different millet species have a great economic value and are basic food plants, especially in semi-arid (sub)tropical regions where malnutrition and hunger are still widespread. Therefore, the knowledge about the nutritional quality of these crops is of vital importance for millions of people and the present collection of data referring to the topics mentioned in the title of the book should be emphatically welcomed.

It is a comprehensive extract of the vast, dispersed literature (together with original contributions) on the fine structure and chemistry of sorghum and millet grains (*Pennisetum*, *Eleusine*, *Setaria*, *Panicum*, *Echinochloa*, *Digitaria*, *Coix*) and of the analytical methods regarding protein, amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates, vitamins, mineral elements, the genetic and agronomic impact upon them, on nutritional inhibitors and toxic compounds (mostly polyphenols), on traditional and industrial grain processing procedures and on diatal supplementations of these cereals by other ones (pulses, oilseeds and different animal proteins) and their results. The text has been written in a hand-book like manner, not easily to be digested by the reader: a considerable part of the information is condensed in the numerous tables comprising nearly 350 pages! Nevertheless, the authors have produced an extremely useful reference book which should be intensively read by people concerned with the genetic and agronomic improvement of sorghum and millets and with agricultural and nutritional problems in those countries cultivating these crops more or less frequently.

Unfortunately some of the botanic-taxonomical data is not up-

to-date, some uncorrect Latin names have been used and why a single amaranth species has been included is scarcely understandable.

P. Hanelt, Gatersleben

Godley, E.J., Wylie, A.P., Thomas, R.G., Brock, P.J., Ruscoe, Q.W. (eds.): Reproduction in Flowering Plants. International Symposium, Christchurch, New Zealand, 1979. New Zealand J. of Botany, Vol. 17/4. New Zealand Wellington: Sci. Information Div. 1979. 260 pp. Soft bound NZ \$ 30.00.

The December issue of the New Zealand Journal of Botany contains the review papers presented at the International Symposium. This meeting, organised under the auspices of the Royal Society of New Zealand and sponsored by I.U.B.S. in February 1979, has already been proclaimed by the participants as being very successful. The proceedings, now published, give an excellent overview of the broad field of reproductive biology in higher plants. In addition to containing articles on aspects of flower biology, biotic pollination mechanisms and breeding systems of flowering plants in Australia and New Zealand, the volume comprises surveys on breeding systems in grasses, reproductive biology in the family of the Onagraceae, the biology of heterostyly and on parasexual reproduction in flowering plants. Lectures were also given on embryological studies in economic important plants, incompatibility, and a short review was presented on pollen-stigma interaction in grasses. Herbert G. Baker gave an excellent speech on Anthocology at the banquet. The 133 participants from 16 countries must be envied for their having had the opportunity to attend this meeting which brought together most of the competent specialists in the field.

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