
Book Reviews

Hu Han, Shao Qiquan (eds.): Annual Report of the Institute of Genetics. Academia Sinica. 1980. Beijing: Inst. of Genetics, Academia Sinica 1980. 182 pp., 28 figs., 42 tabs.

The intention of this report is to inform the reader on the research priorities and the progress of the most important genetics institute of the Peoples Republic of China. Compared with annual reports from comparable institutions, this one lacks the basic information on the organisation and the personal and infrastructure of the institute, as well as the place of the institute within the hierarchy of genetics and breeding research centres in China.

The 167 short summaries on current projects have a length between ½ and 1.5 pages: very short, abstract-like information. The articles are arranged in six laboratory groups, which are not, but could be, labelled as genetic engineering, cytogenetics, somatic plant cell genetics, molecular genetics, plant distant hybridization, and potato breeding. The boundaries are flexible however, so that topics such as male sterility, pollen grain and anther culture, pollen-derived plants, human population genetics, cytoplasmic genetics, chloroplast genetics can be found to have been investigated by more than one laboratory.

It is an impressive scale of projects which has been tackled! The short summaries, all in English, and exclusively written by two and more scientists, give access to the fundamentals of plant and animal breeding studied in China. The highlights of

the report are the studies on the relationships between ribosomes and gene expression, and anther culture experiments. The latter are useful in the investigations of chromosome engineering in higher plants. Callus clones derived from maize pollen regenerated into whole plants stable in chromosome haploidy, and thus is a valuable material in plant somatic cell genetics. Important progress has also been made in the analysis of the factors affecting the development of rice microspores and the induction frequency of green seedlings.

Anther culture was established for sugar cane and *Hevea brasiliensis*, the latter with a survival rate in transplantation and propagation of 50%. Interspecific hybrids of wild and cultivated species of *Gossypium* have been developed, resulting in a number of strains with high yield, long fibres, good fibre strength and properties which can serve as original material in the development of new types of cotton.

The annual report 1980 is rounded off by short reports on academic exchanges, a list of papers delivered by the institute's staff abroad, lectures given by foreign scientists (the majority from Australia), and a list of papers (67) published in 1980 in collaboration with the institute (5 in international journals).

The Annual Report 1980 indicates that genetics and breeding research in China has made amazing progress, reaching in some fields international levels, and gives hope for the highest expectations.

H. F. Linskens

Announcements

European Drosophila Stock Center

In Umeå (Sweden) the European Drosophila Stock Center has been established.

In addition to wild and mutant strains of *Drosophila melanogaster*, other Drosophila species are also in stock. These strains are available for use in research and teaching.

For information: Drosophila-Stock-Center, c/o Department of Genetics, University of Umeå, S-90187 Umeå, Sweden.

Genetic Flux Symposium

The Eighth EMBO Annual Symposium on Genetic Flux will take place the week of October 3-7, 1982, at Heidelberg (West Germany).

For further information: Dr. J. Tooze, Executive Secretary EMBO, P.O. Box 10 22 40, D-6900 Heidelberg 1, Federal Republic of Germany.

Next International Genetics Congress

The XVth International Congress of Genetics will be organized by the Indian Society of Genetics at New Dehli, and will be held between December 11-21, 1983.

For further information: The Secretary of the XVth Intern. Congress of Genetics, P.O. Box 28 41 New Dehli - 11 00 60, India.