Book reviews

John Innes Institute: 72nd Report, Covering the Two Years 1981–1982. Norfolk: John Innes Institute 1983. 195 pp., 74 figs., 8 tabs. Soft bound £ 5.00.

Founded in 1910, this famous institution for applied genetics is an association between the Agricultural Research Council of the UK, the University of East Anglia and the John Innes Charity. The director's and the research reports cover a two year period, 1981–82. In these reports one learns of the central research programs: genetic manipulation of microorganisms and higher plants, molecular biology, plant virology and the elucidation of structures by electron microscopy. Compared with other years, the emphasis on mycoplasma and spiroplasms, the fine structure of viruses and the propagation of ornamentals has been reduced. New programs have been started, however: the molecular genetics of pathogenicity, using *Xanthomonas campestris* as a model; the study of *gemini* viruses; cell-cell recognition; regeneration of a range of species from protoplasts and the use of monoclonal antibodies in the analysis of cell wall structures. Progress has been made on the structural analysis of wall proteins in algae. Other fields of progress are: transposition and pigment induction in snapdragon; controlled production of mini-tubers in vitro may permit a new approach for the production of virus-free stocks in potato; in vitro modification of Ti-plasmids; *Rhizobium* genetics and plasmid borne nodulation.

Peas are still a main field of interest in the institute: a new lemumine-related polypeptide was found, there is no indication that use of irradiated pollen will provide an alternative to backcrossing, the development of improved genotypes for the dried pea crop is going on, as well as the breeding for disease resistance.

The great variety of topics which is tackled at John Innes shows once again the broad interest of the institute's staff and also their continued willingness to adapt to the changing needs of breeders.

H. F. Linskens, Nijmegen

Koster, H.; Schneider, F.: A Multilingual Glossary of Common Plant Names. 1. Field Crops, Grasses and Vegetables. Zurich: The International Seed Testing Association 1982. 235 pp.

Dictionaries are not generally preferred topics for review but this one is a worthwhile exception. It is prepared under the auspices of the International Seed Testing Association Nomenclature Committee. For the second edition the compilers, H. Koster and F. Schneider of the Dutch Governmental Institute for Research on Varieties of Cultivated Plants at Wageningen, took the opportunity to make a number of additions, amendments and corrections which are really an improvement to the first edition. Some of the important changes are: the number of countries was extended from 41 to 61, transliterations were omitted, many additions and corrections sent by member stations of the association have been integrated and some important species are subdivided into infra-specific groups with common names given separately.

Plant species are listed alphabetically by their scientific names, but in addition indices are given for common plant names and for the latin synonymes. Strangly enough, species such as pea, lettuce, horse bean, watermelon, vetch, pepper, cabbage, radish and beet have more common names than e.g. wheat or rice. The dictionary is a valuable product and indispensable for the communication among breeders of the world.

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