Book reviews

Gluzman, Y. (ed.): Eukaryotic Viral Vectors. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 1982. 232 pp., several figs. Hard bound $ 38.40.

This booklet summarizes the results of a small conference on eukaryotic vectors held at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in December 1981. In this book the abstracts of more than 30 papers are presented dealing with a great variety of eukaryotic vectors. These consider both DNA tumor and RNA tumor virus vectors which were mainly used for analysing eukaryotic DNA signal sequences involved in gene transcription or in modification of gene products (e.g., in splicing and protein processing). Because of historical and methodical reasons, about half of the articles are devoted to experiments on the construction and the use of SV 40 and polyoma vectors in studying transcription. There are contributions on the induction of the metallothionein-I gene of mouse (Hamer et al.), on the expression of p21 ras oncogenes (Gruss et al.), on the activation of Influenza virus hemagglutinin genes (Hartman et al.; Gething and Sambrook), on the transcription of human interferon β1, and on mutant globin genes (Gheysen et al.; Treisman et al.). Additional articles are devoted to the construction of bovine papilloma virus vectors (Law et al.; Binetruy et al.; Di Maio and Maniatis; Lushy et al.), the utilization of Adenovirus vectors (Thummel et al.; Berkner and Sharp) and to the use of retrovival sequences in vector construction (Varma et al.; Kriegler and Botchan, etc.).

Although in the meantime the majority of experimental data presented in this book has been published in more detail elsewhere, the book gives a useful overview of the work in this rapidly progressing field. There is no doubt that our rapid progress in the understanding of eukaryotic gene expression during the last two years has been mainly increased by the use of viral vectors. This justifies both the edition and reading of this book.

E. Serfling, Gatersleben

Bunting, E.S. (ed.): Production and Utilization of Protein in Oilseed Crops. World Crops: Production, Utilization, Description, Vol. 5. The Hague: M. Nijhoff 1981. 390 pp. Hard bound $ 52.00.

This publication contains the proceedings of a seminar held at Braunschweig from 8 to 10 July, 1980. Its content concentrates upon the genetics, breeding, and agricultural aspects of three important oil seed crops – rapeseed, sunflower, and soybean – and upon aspects of animal nutrition as the most important use of these protein resources in the EC countries. Problems of an urgent importance in the recent field of genetics and breeding research are discussed by specialists: the use of tissue culture, plant regeneration from single cells and protoplasts, protoplast fusion, potentials and restrictions of breeding for protein improvement, crop physiology and breeding for low content of glucosinolates in rapeseed, new methods of quantitative analysis of glucosinolates, breeding aspects of sunflower and soybean. Agricultural aspects are focussed on the regulation of pod and seed numbers, on the plant-water relations of rapeseed and on topics of yield of sunflower and soybean. The animal nutrition section deals equally well with the general aspects of oilseed crops as protein feed as with special problems of feeding rapeseed meals of traditional and "double-zero" quality. Although there is a lack of all technological aspects of production and utilization of protein in oilseed crops – an important topic the reader of a book with this title might expect to find herein, this publication is an excellent review of the research in a field of high importance. Its value does not consist only in summarizing the results of research but also in pointing to urgent problems to be solved.

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