
Book review

Fowden, L.; Mifflin, B.J. (eds.): Seed Storage Proteins. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London 304 (1120). London: Royal Society 1984. 273–407 pp., several figs. and tabs. Soft bound £ 24.75.

Storage proteins of seeds provide about 70% of the edible protein produced in the world. However, seed proteins are not well-balanced with respect to the 10 amino acids that are essential in the diet of monogastric animals. Legume proteins are deficient in methionine and cysteine and cereal proteins in lysine, tryptophan and threonine. The long-range aim of most research on seed storage proteins is to provide means to improve the composition of storage proteins for human consumption other than the conventional breeding programmes. In addition, since storage proteins are abundantly present and abundantly synthesised, they are also an excellent tool for basic research on plant proteins. It is surprising that in spite of their economic and scientific importance, the largest part of

our knowledge on seed proteins has been accumulated only in the last 5 to 10 years.

The volume under review comprises the proceedings of a conference on seed proteins held in June 1983 and contains excellent reviews of the progress of knowledge on all aspects of seed proteins: their synthesis, transport, deposition, genetics and structure. In addition, the last chapters discuss the problems of seed-technology.

The research on seed proteins forms one of the areas in which plant molecular biology has made greatest progress. The reviews in this volume indicate that important breakthroughs are to be expected in the near future, possibly leading to practical applications. An integrated approach as presented in this volume offers a good guidance for future research both in basic and in applied science.

G. J. de Klerk, Canberra

Announcement

Barley Genetics Symposium

The Fifth International Barley Genetics Symposium will be held in Okayama City (Japan) from the 6th to the 11th of October 1986. This symposium is the first one to be held in East Asia; the last one was organized in Edinburgh in 1981.

The symposium will include oral and poster sessions, meetings of scientific and technical committees, workshops for developing subjects and pre- and post-symposium tours. The following tentative topics will be covered:

- Natural variation, phylogeny and genetic resources
- Genic analysis and linkage
- Mutation
- Interspecific and intergenic hybridization
- Cytogenetics and chromosome engineering
- Physiological and biochemical genetics

- Quantitative genetics
- Molecular genetics and biotechnology
- Resistance to disease and insect pests
- Tolerance to environmental stress
- Malting quality and nutritional quality
- Breeding method and hybrid barley

The international organizing committee will be headed by Prof. A. Hagberg (Sweden), with Prof. S. Yasuda as secretary.

More information: Prof. S. Yasuda, chairman local organizing committee, Institute for Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Okayama University, Kurashiki, 710 Japan, tel. 0864-24-1661, ext. 235

Communication

One of the co-editors of TAG, Professor Georg Melchers, emeritus director of the Max-Planck-Institut für Biologie, Tübingen, has recently (May 1, 1984) been elected Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. Walter A. Rosenblith, foreign secretary of the NAS, congratulated Professor Melchers by telegram and confirmed this honour "in recognition of his significant contribution to science".

On May 7th 1984, R.J. Gautheret announced that Professor Melchers had been elected Foreign Associate of the French Academy of Sciences.

Congratulations from the Editorial Board of TAG!

On May 8th 1984, the "Agrogenetic Corporation" was founded in Tokyo. Directors of this firm are Dr. Hisay Takesue (director), Dr. Katsumi Ito, Dr. Fumitake Tokuyama, Yasushi Mukaiyama, as well as Dr. Johann Georg Friedrich Melchers. This firm, a subsidiary of the Nippon Reize K.K. (Nichirei) Corp., will be devoted to practical plant breeding.