

**Schlosser, S. (ed.): Genresourcen für Forschung und Nutzung. Naturschutzarbeiten in den Bezirken Halle und Magdeburg. 19. Jg. Beiheft.** Institut für Landschaftsforschung und Naturschutz: Halle/Saale 1982. 96 pp. DM 2.-.

The preservation of wild plant species relevant for breeding and application in natural reserve areas is a new argument for protective measures.

The Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the GDR has initiated the compilation of such species and their potential use as food, and fodder material for vegetables, fruit, spices, drugs, as well as for recultivation and forest plantation. For all species an index of importance as a gene resource for research and breeding purposes is given. The variety of potential uses includes resistance breeding, as well as new starting materials for tissue culture, distance breeding and chemical exploitation. It is the extensively used permanent grasslands, which are substantially diminished habitats, that contain ecotypes of various grasses and clover species which will be essential for the breeding of forage plants.

It is the first time that a state unit has presented such an annotated list – it will be extremely important for the future.

H. F. Linskens, Nijmegen

**Wöhrmann, K.; Loeschcke, V.: Population Biology and Evolution.** Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo: Springer 1984. xi + 270 pp., 74 figs. Hard bound DM 112.-.

The editors V. Loeschcke and K. Wöhrmann describe in the introduction of the book that "one of the major tasks of

contemporary population biologists" is to elucidate the relationship between the processes occurring at the phenotypic level with those occurring at the genotypic level. Concepts of the interaction between environment and the buffered feedback mechanisms of the genotype should be developed. This is certainly a very important statement but the collection of articles published in this book fulfill this expectation only to a limited degree. Without any doubt, some of the contributions can be highly recommended to the interested reader. Yet, a general solution of the problem is not visible. Population biology is a very complex field, and one must be satisfied when the interacting factors of special cases become sufficiently disentangled. There are 19 different articles in the book, arranged in seven chapters. The authors are well-known population biologists (e.g. W. Scharloo, A.M. Shapiro, A.J. van Noordwijk, T. Prout, W. van Delden, A. Seitz, P.D.N. Hebert, K. Wöhrmann, to name some of them) or theoreticians (e.g. S.C. Stearns, G. de Jong, K.P. Haderler, F.B. Christiansen, V. Loeschcke, S.D. Jayakar and others) and all the papers deal in one way or the other with genotype-environment interaction in animal or plant populations. It is impossible, however, to give a general overview since the variety of conceptions is too big. Students of practical and theoretical population biology are invited to go through the book themselves. Whatever their special field might be, they will find stimulating and interesting contributions written by highly competent scientists.

D. Sperlich, Tübingen

## Announcement

### Assinsel Grand Prize

The producers of new plant varieties belonging to Assinsel (Association Internationale des Sélectionneurs pour la Protection des obtentions Végétales) award a Grand Prize, every four years, to a scientist whose research work is capable of making a major contribution to the development of world agricultural or horticultural production.

The Grand Prize competition is open to all scientists who, through their basic or applied research work, have contributed towards improving methods and techniques of selecting and producing new plant varieties. It is open to researchers of all countries, universities, public breeding centres, international plant-breeding centres, gene banks, government agencies, etc., with the exception of personnel in commercial or other private companies involved in producing new plant varieties, which belong to Assinsel or to a company or association which is a member of Assinsel.

All scientific papers will be accepted, subject to the following conditions:

- all papers must be in French, English, German or Spanish;
- all papers must be typewritten or otherwise typeset;
- the work covered by the paper must not have been published prior to December 1, 1981;
- papers must be presented by a scientist in the applicant's country and/or accompanied by a brief résumé specifying the applicant's scientific training, the place of origin and detailed information on the progress of the work covered in the paper.

Scientific papers must be received no later than December, 1985, either at the Assinsel Secretariat-General, 5-7 Chemin du Reposoir, Nyon (Switzerland), Telephone (22) 61 99 77, Telex 22 776, or at any other Assinsel National Secretariat.

The Assinsel Prize carries a cash award of 5,000 Swiss francs. If there are several winners, this amount shall be evenly divided amongst them. The decision will be given widespread publicity in the international scientific community and in the international press.

The winner or winners will be invited to attend the Assinsel Conference, where the Prize will be officially awarded. Travel and accommodation will be provided free of charge.

In 1986, the Assinsel Conference will be held in San Francisco, California (United States) on May 30 and 31.

