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Kumar, S., Fladung, M. (ed.): **Molecular Genetics and Breeding of Forest Trees.** – Forest Products Press, New York – London – Oxford 2004. ISBN 1-56022-959-4. 436 pp., USD 44,96 (softbound).

Fifty-seven scientists from 12 countries of the world contributed to this book (Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, USA). It is divided to four parts: Forest Tree Functional Genomics, Molecular Biology of Wood Formation, Forest Tree Transgenesis, and Genome Mapping in Forest Trees.

Four chapters of Part I deal, among others, with expressed sequence tag databases, proteomics, and exploring the transcriptome of ectomycorrhizal symbiosis.

Part II consists of four chapters on genomics of wood formation, including cellulose biosynthesis, lignin metabolism, and *in vitro* systems.

In five chapters of Part III, genetic modification in conifer forestry is dealt with. Insect resistance, modifi-

cation of flowering, stability of transgene expression, and asexual production of marker-tree transgenesis are the main topics. Four chapters of Part IV analyse the use of high-density linkage maps, microsatellites in forest tree species, and genome mapping in some tree species.

Main trees studied in this connection were pines, poplars, eucalypti, acacias, and species specific for some countries (*e.g.* China). In some cases model plants (*Arabidopsis*, yeasts) were used for comparison.

I recommend this book for students and scientists who are interested in forest genetics and tree breeding. I only regret that an information about legislation and regulation in the field of transgenic trees' use in forestry is missing.

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