

PS2001 Proceedings. 12th International Congress on Photosynthesis. – CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood 2001. ISBN 0-643-06711-6. AUD 250.00.

International congresses on photosynthesis are organised in three-year intervals in different countries of Europe, America, Asia, and Australia. The last one took place in Australian Sydney. Different publishers produced proceedings of the first to the eleventh Congress on Photosynthesis in printed form (for their list, see Govindjee *et al.*, *Photosynthetica* 40: 1-11, 2002). These proceedings comprised up to five thick volumes per Congress. The organisers of the 12th Congress made an important innovation: they replaced the traditional paper form by an electronic one.

All 580 papers, plenary (PL) and symposium (S), are present on one disc. The Adobe Acrobat Reader that is also present on the disc enables reading the papers. The papers have (mostly) no pagination, hence only their number gives the reference to a paper (e.g. S1-024 represents the paper Ishii, T., Nagano, Y., Hirabayashi, K., Uehara, K.: The homologation process of bacteriochlorophylls C_F and D_F). The reader can find it under this number in the Contents (but do not believe there are not errors, e.g. in this case the authors of this paper are Ishii, Nagano, Hirabayashi, Hirabayashi according to the Contents). Another way is to use "search", but under the item "Ishii" one finds 14 papers and under "Ishii T." 4 papers. But do not try to search "Ishii, T.", then the program shows you 428 papers in which T. is used as abbreviation of first name of any author, *etc.*!

Of course, the possibility of searching all papers for

author names, subject items, or plants in a few seconds is very good. Thus you will find the term "chlorophyll" in 293 and "chlorophylls" in 69 papers, "xanthophyll" in 38 papers and "xanthophylls" in 20 papers. The term "induction" exists in 94 papers, "fluorescence induction" in 35 papers, and "chlorophyll fluorescence induction" in 11 papers. "*Chlorella*" is mentioned in 23 papers, and "*Chlorella vulgaris*" in 8 papers. Hence one has to be careful when choosing the correct word for a query. "Photosynthetica" is in references of 27 papers.

Reading the papers on a screen of personal computer is not as pleasant as reading them in a book. Of course, the reader can produce prints of any of the papers on own printer and thus reprints are not necessary.

Generally, papers published in proceeding volumes from photosynthetic congresses have not been cited too often in the literature. The reason is that many authors usually presented the same matter later in a little modified version in a regular scientific journal and then the text was peer reviewed and usually much improved (or refused). The nearest future will show if the experiment with the electronic form of publication was a success or not.

The easiest way how to buy disc with these proceedings is to send an e-mail to the address publishing.sales@csiro.au or look at the respective Web site: www.publish.csiro.au.

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