

Wang, D.Z., Wang, S.H., Wu, S., Li, C.Q., Jiao, D.M., Luo, Y.C., Wang, X.F., Du, S.Y.: [Inheritance and expression of the maize *pepc* gene in progenies of transgenic rice bred by crossing.] – *Acta genet. sin.* **31**: 195-201, 2004. [In Chin.]
Wang, Z., Fang, X.J.: [Plant DNA isolation.] – *Mol. Plant Breed.* **1**: 281-288, 2003. [In Chin.]

Govindjee, Beatty, J.T., Gest, H., Allen, J.F. (ed.): **Discoveries in Photosynthesis.** – Springer, Dordrecht 2005. ISBN-10 1-4020-3323-0. XXXVIII+1304 pp., € 315.65.

History of research is very important and much time of young researchers would be spared if they would know what had been done, in some cases many years ago. Govindjee as Historical Corner Editor of the journal *Photosynthesis Research* persuaded many scientists to write their historical recollections or prepare review papers, collected this material, and did edition of it, often completing the reviews with his own photographs of scientists (and he takes pictures often). But all this material has already been published in voluminous issues of the mentioned journal in the years 2002–2004. Now all these 112 review articles were published once more in one, very thick book. On the one hand, the book brings all this material together, but on the other hand, nothing new is presented and only in very few cases some new references were added. And the old imbalance remains, *e.g.* there is little information on the physiology and ecology of photosynthesis of higher plants or algae and their relations to photosynthetic production, the US research is usually preferred to the European one, *etc.* It is also not easy to find the citations of the original review papers, because they do not accompany the reprinted chapters.

Unfortunately, also the quality of print is much worst in the book when compared with the original journal version. The print is more gray-toned than black and on some photographs it is very difficult to recognize the faces of people one has never met. Thus the reader often doubts whether it was necessary to publish photographs of such low quality (see pp. 266, 365, 395 top, 440 top, 653, 924 and many other ones). In other cases it is not clear why the respective pictures were published, *e.g.* greeting card on p. 544. I also do not understand why the (generally fine) painting of T. Ogawa was chosen for book cover design.

Another problem is with the name index. Only a selection of names is presented here and this does not help the reader. For example, I know the name of Maria Ghirardi. The index gives p. 682, where one of her papers is cited, but why do I have not the opportunity to easily find her picture that is on p. 72? Why it is so difficult to find a fine picture of my teacher Ivan Šetlík that is on p. 939? The names of many researchers that are shown on the photographs are not given in the index. The book will also not serve as an often needed source of references to original research papers, because the names of their authors are not given in the index. I know that this would extremely increase the size of the index, but nowadays this could have been solved by presenting a name index on CD as a welcome supplement or by hanging the full index on the net.

I regret also that more attention has not been given to methods used in photosynthesis research. For example, our book—Šesták, Z., Čatský, J., Jarvis, P.G. (ed.): *Plant Photosynthetic Production. Manual of Methods.* – Dr W. Junk Publ., The Haag 1971—is not presented in the list of important books, and I know that it has been cited more than 1 000 times. Similarly, there is no mention on the main photosynthesis journals and their history, even if Govindjee co-authored an article on this topic (*Photosynthetica* **40**: 1-11, 2002).

To sum up, it was certainly easy to reprint the huge material that has already been published in *Photosynthesis Research*, but the incompleteness of this material remained in the book version. The quality of printing is lower than that in the journal. There is not a good name index. Hence I wonder if those who own the journal would like to buy this book. For the other scientists interested in photosynthesis this volume is certainly an important material to have on the book shelf.

Z. ŠESTÁK (*Praha*)