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Ahuja, M. R. (ed.): Somatic Cell Genetics of Woody Plants. – Kluwer Acad. Publ., Dordrecht–Boston–London, 1988. 225 pp., US \$ 59.00, UK £ 31.50.

The thirtieth volume of the renowned Kluwer Forestry Sciences edition is an outcome of the first Workshop of the International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO) Working Party "Somatic Cell Genetics of Woody Plants" held at Grosshansdorf, F. R. G., 10–13 August, 1987.

The volume contains 28 papers presented by 59 authors from ten countries, mainly from the U.S.A. and F.R.G. The articles are arranged in four thematic parts. Part 1 is devoted to somatic embryogenesis (7 articles); part 2 to genetic transformation by *Agrobacterium*, by direct gene transfer or injection of DNA (5 articles). The largest third part is dedicated to genetic control of morphogenesis (9 articles). Two remaining Workshop sessions comprising the last part deal with *in vitro* screening, somaclonal selection, testing and deployment (7 articles). The majority of papers presents original experimental results; the review articles including up-to date information are written with profound knowledge of the subject and they are supplemented by a list of references the most recent latest.

The specialized Working Party set up at the IUFRO World Congress in Ljubljana in 1986 and the subsequent publication of proceedings of the first Working Party Workshop bespeaks the increasing importance of somatic cell genetics in research and breeding of woody plants. This volume summarizing the Workshop activities is a comprehensive, up-to-date treatise on somatic cell differentiation, genetics and biotechnology of woody plants. Besides, it reflects the continuous and promising progress which has been made in introducing *in vitro* techniques to the culture of tissues, organs, cells and protoplasts of tree species considered recalcitrant a decade ago.

The book will undoubtedly be an excellent source of information not only for researcher engaged in genetics and breeding of woody plants but for researchers in plant physiology, genetics, and related branches, in general.

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