

Iqbal, M. (ed.): **Growth Patterns in Vascular Plants**. - Dioscorides Press, Portland 1994. 480 pp. US \$ 69.95.

The book is dedicated to Prof. A.K.M. Ghouse, Aligarh, India and is opened by his bibliography. The volume is aimed to studies of the structural-functional interrelationships in plants during the development of different organs. It consists of four selections named: 1) Primary vegetative growth, 2) Secondary vegetative growth, 3) Reproductive growth and 4) Phylogenetic development. It was not the aim of the editor, Prof. Muhammad Iqbal from Hamdard University, New Delhi, India, to provide an encyclopedic coverage of plant growth but to provide an overview of the new trends in this field. The book deals with plant growth at the submicroscopic, chemical, cellular and histogenic levels and was written by well-known experts: Contributors include biochemists, ecophysiologicals, molecular biologists and other specialists in addition to anatomists and morphologists. Selected topics in Section 1 are *e.g.* root tip organization, dynamics of root growth and gravitropism, shoot apical configuration, leaf development as affected by light, growth of lactifers, and growth of tracheary elements in parasitic plants. Section 2 concerns secondary growth in Pteridophytes, monocotyledons, and adaptive anatomy of lianas. Section 3 deals with flower, gametophyte and embryo development, Section 4 is an attempt to a reconstruction of the phylogeny of seed plants. Author index, plant index and subject index are supplemented. The 18 contributors to the volume from eight contries are introduced on photographs. The book is well-done, the readable text accompanied by plenty of illustrations, drawings, diagramms, schemes and micrographs from the light microscope or scanning electron microscope. This advanced book is of interest for advanced students, teachers and researchers in plant growth and development.

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