

**IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans. Volume 58** Beryllium, Cadmium, Mercury, and Exposures in the Glass Manufacturing Industry. - International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon 1993. 444 pp. Sw. Fr. 75.00.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) elaborates and publishes critical Monographs of data on carcinogenicity for agents to which humans are exposed. The Monographs include also genotoxic and related effects of environmental agents and so readers of *Biologia Plantarum* will find in this Volume also interesting data on the effects of beryllium, cadmium and mercury on various plant systems. For each agent or complex mixture evaluated, data on exposure, analysis, production, use, occurrence and carcinogenicity are presented. The Monographs conclude that beryllium and cadmium compounds are carcinogenic to humans, while methyl-mercury compounds were classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans. The publication is appended by the "Activity profiles for genetic and related effects", where the abscissa represents the bioassays in phylogenetic sequence by endpoints, and the values on the ordinate represent the logarithmically transformed lowest effective and the highest ineffective doses tested.

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Bryant, J. (ed.): **Methods in Plant Biochemistry. Volume 10. Molecular Biology.** - Academic Press, Harcourt Brace and Company, London - San Diego - New York - Boston - Sydney - Tokyo - Toronto 1993. 297 pp. US \$ 60.00.

The series *Methods in Plant Biochemistry* aim to publish authoritative reviews in specialised fields of plant biochemistry which are currently undergoing rapid developments. Volume 10 continues this tradition with 12 articles on different areas of plant molecular biology: 1. RNA extraction and fractionation, 2. *In vitro* translation of plant messenger RNA, 3. cDNA cloning and screening, 4. Nucleic acid blotting and hybridisation, 5. Applications of protein blotting, 6. Polymerase chain reaction, 7. Non-radioactive *in situ* RNA hybridisation, 8. Immunolocalisation of antigens in plants, 9. Protoplast fusion, 10. Import of *in vitro* synthesised proteins, 11. Seed development, 12. Tomato fruit development and ripening. In the articles three different themes are discernible: (i) techniques for working with plant genes, (ii) specific techniques for modifying the genetic contents of plant cells, and (iii) applications of molecular biology techniques to understanding how plants work. The fact that the material presented in Volume 10 is normally scattered through a variety of sources argues persuasively for the value of the publication.

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