Roy, J., Garnier, E. (ed.): **A Whole Plant Perspective on Carbon-Nitrogen Interactions.** - SPB Academic Publishing, The Hague 1994. ISBN 90-5103-086-X. 314 pp. Hard cover NLG 130.00.

The efficiency of plant life processes depends largely on the way in which a plant requires and uses carbon and nitrogen. The reviewed book is based upon the material presented to a meeting of European scientists held in Montpellier in September 1991. Selected contributions as well additional papers (18 reviews and research papers of 30 authors) have been combined to highlight the whole-plant perspective of carbon-nitrogen interactions.

The book opens with a Prologue summarising the history of studies devoted to the roles of carbon and nitrogen in whole-plant functioning. The papers are arranged in three parts: 1. Coupling of nitrogen and carbon metabolisms for resource acquisition and use, 2. Distribution of functions, matter and signals within the plant, and 3. Carbon-nitrogen interactions: Developmental and ecological aspects. The Part 1, dealing mainly with nitrogen relations to photosynthesis, respiration and growth, analyses how the economy of one element depends on the economy of the other. The Part 2 is devoted to the regulatory functions in biomass distribution, and the 3rd part deals with plant development and explores ways of integrating knowledge acquired from short-term studies on longer time scales. The Epilogue, Whole plant physiology: a matter of integration, synthesises the essence and limits of an approach focused on the whole plant.

The book is well edited and complemented with an Index of subjects and species. It is a useful source of recent information on whole-plant physiology, ecophysiology and ecology. Therefore, it can be recommended to scientists and graduate-level students interested in all branches of plant sciences.

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