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BOOK REVIEW

MEIDNER, H., SHERIFF, D. W.: **Water and Plants**. — Tertiary Biology Series, Blackie, Glasgow—London, 1976. Pp. 148. £ 5.80, in English.

In my opinion, this book can serve as an excellent example how to write specialized textbooks for advanced undergraduates or postgraduates in botany, plant physiology, horticulture and agriculture. The approaches to plant-water relations are very up to date and at the same time the text is brief and clearly understandable. An important feature of the book is also the inclusion of experiments intended to illustrate the text. Forty-five very instructive figures greatly contribute to a still better understanding of the matter.

The book is organized into six chapters. After the first chapter describing the physico-chemical aspects of water, the authors discuss first the atmosphere and the leaves exposed to it (Chapter 2) with the aim to emphasize that movement of water through the plants depends largely on its evaporation within the leaves, and on the escape of water from the leaves into the atmosphere. Then they follow the movement of liquid water in the leaves, stems and roots (Chapter 3) and devote special attention to water "reservoirs" in plants. Chapter 4 deals with movement of water in soil and with methods for determining soil water status. Water relations of individual cells and tissues are examined in Chapter 5. The final Chapter 6 treats the role of water in plants and the effect of water stress on respiration, photosynthesis and plant growth.

The book is well printed and produced. The subject index is also included. It is a pity that the references are restricted to advanced texts.

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