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BOOK REVIEW

SANDERS, F. E., MOSSE, B., TINKER, P. B. (ed.): *Endomycorrhizas*. Proceedings of a Symposium held at the University of Leeds, 22–25 July 1974. — Academic Press, London—New York—San Francisco 1975. 626 pp., £ 9.60.

The enormous interest in the vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizas promoted an idea to hold the first international meeting at the University of Leeds in England in 1974. This book printed in photooffset reports on the proceedings of this symposium.

J. L. Harley in his paper on problems of mycotrophy dealing with symbiosis between autotroph and heterotroph describes the effects of infection on the growth and mineral nutrition of the host plant, carbon nutrition of symbiotic systems, the importance of symbiosis in ecosystems and the effects of each symbiont on the selective permeability of the membranes of host plant. This introductory paper is followed by the papers of seven sessions. In the session "Evolution, classification and culture of endophytes" vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizas, the phosphorus nutrition of the host, the taxonomy of *Endogonaceae*, the techniques used to study the interaction between the fungus *Endogone* and plant roots and some mycological aspects of the biology of mycorrhiza in the *Ericaceae* are described. The carbohydrate and phosphorus physiology of vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizas, including the comparative carbohydrate physiology of ecto- and endomycorrhizas, the membrane structure and transport problems considered in relation to phosphorus and carbohydrate movements and the regulation of endotrophic mycorrhizal associations are included in sessions "Physiology — carbohydrates and general" and "Physiology — phosphorus". Since the polyphosphate granules may be important in the mycorrhizal situation on account of their possibility to transfer phosphorus compounds to the host and, on the contrary, the lipid globules may be important in the transfer of carbohydrate from the host to the fungus, the ultrastructural studies have been concentrated in the session "Fine structure". In this session many important and instructive light micrographs, phase contrast micrographs, electron micrographs and autoradiographs of numerous authors are presented. The division of the last three sessions "Effects on plant growth", "Ecology" and "Biological interactions" is not so much clear, because some papers may be likewise included in any other session.

The absence of discussions in the volume from which the future trends in respective research problems usually follow is explained in the preface. The main argument is a too long free discussion at the meeting. The authors had therefore an opportunity of revising manuscripts after the meeting and incorporating in them most of the major points raised in the discussion.

The book containing also reviews on orchid and ericaceous mycorrhizas, on mechanisms of fungal symbiosis and on phosphorus in plants and soils is useful to mycologists, agronomists, chemists, foresters and ecologists.

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