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BOOK REVIEW

■ MOYSE, A. (ed.): *Les processus de la production végétale primaire. Les travaux du Programme biologique international sur la photosynthèse.* — Gauthier-Villars, Paris 1977. 265 pp. Cartonné 150 FF.

The collection summarizing the French activity in the photosynthetic section of the International Biological Programme presents nine papers. Eckardt, Berger, Méthy, Heim and Sauvezon report on ecological study of interception of radiation, CO₂ exchange, water relations and dry matter production in several mediterranean vegetation types. Chartier and Bethenod with collaborators discuss the models of primary production of the leaf of maize and sugar beet. Perrier, Itier and Jaussely studied the photosynthetic CO₂ fluxes field conditions, analysed as a function of the global radiation and CO₂ exchange coefficient. CO₂ efflux into CO₂ free air in connection with photorespiration was studied by Cornic, and the photosynthetic adaption of *Teucrium scorodonia* to different irradiation levels by Mousseau. Increase in CO₂ compensation point of cotton leaves due to water deficit induced by polyethylene glycol is discussed by Pham Thi and Vieira da Silva. The relationship between the ultrastructure of chloroplasts and foliar photosynthesis is evaluated by Bourdu using the biometrique methods described. Mathieu and Moyse studied the effect of oxygen on the reduction processes in isolated spinach chloroplasts.

The book yields a representative review of French theoretical studies within the frame of IBP, covering the research projects from both biochemical and ecological points of view. The range of interests, the level of methods used and the problems discussed are a convincing proof of the high efficiency and progress of the research which has been promoted by IBP. The book was edited with care and authority and will be surely appreciated by everybody dealing with photosynthesis.

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