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BOOK REVIEW

BÖHM, W.: *METHODS OF STUDYING ROOT SYSTEMS*. — Springer Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York 1979. 188 pp., 68 figs. Cloth bound DM 69,—; US \$ 38.—.

The 33rd volume of the well known series “Ecological Studies” is devoted to the rhizological study. A full description of ecological rhizological methods is here presented, especially of those which are applicable in field research, while contained methods are described only in relation to ecological, not physiological problems.

Each group of techniques is described in an individual chapter: Excavation methods, Monolith methods, Auger methods, Profile wall methods, Glass wall methods, Indirect methods, Other methods, Container methods, Root washing, Root parameters and their measurement (number, mass, surface, volume, diameter, length, tips, root/shoot ratio).

Each chapter begins with the classical original description of the techniques, their modifications using modern materials and equipment. The methods are critically evaluated, their advantages and drawbacks compared and limits drawn. Ample references (48 pages) are included. In the closing chapter general possibilities of the rhizological studies in ecology and their possible development in the future are discussed.

The book presents a very comprehensive review of the modern techniques being at the same time a stimulation for the development of root research. Since the root study is in all respects very complicated and in most cases extremely laborious, the book will be appreciated not only by ecologists but also by all those working experimentally in applied agronomy and forestry.

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