



International Symposium PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

June 18–22, 1984
Liblice, Czechoslovakia

The international symposium "Plant Growth Regulators" was organized by the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences between 18th and 22nd June, 1984 at Liblice in Czechoslovakia.

The research on the regulation and development of plants enjoys a long-standing tradition in Czechoslovakia. Let us recall the statolythic concept of the geotropic reception of plants proposed by B. Němec in 1900. R. Dostál was one of the initiators of the discovery of phytohormones, to the research of which he dedicated all his life and educated a number of pupils to follow in his work. He studied the correlation of the individual plant organs (in 1908 he started the study of the effect of the cotyledon on its axillary bud), and proved experimentally that the correlational relationships are controlled by phytohormones. The phytohormones are also the factors determining the entirety of plants (book published in Prague 1959; in Cambridge, U.S.A. 1967). A pioneer in the exploitation of phytohormones in practice (rooting) and in their application in nourishing media for organ and tissue cultures was R. Řetovský (book published in Prague 1956). The modern research into the growth regulators of plants, now carried out in several research centres in Czechoslovakia, has developed from these basic works. Since the foundation of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1962, the study of the biochemistry and physiology of phytohormones is one of the principal working trends of this Institute. The Czech authors appeared for the first time on the 5th International Conference on the Growth Substances at Gif-sur-Yvette in 1963, since when they have taken part in all these conferences.

The first scientific meeting at Liblice, dedicated to the problem of the growth substances in plants, was held in 1972. The growing interest of other countries was manifest on the next conference in 1978.

*The international symposium in 1984, in the premises of the beautiful Liblice baroque chateau situated in central Bohemia, was attended by 180 participants, many of them outstanding experts, from 24 nations of the world; they spent there a week filled with scientific lectures and discussions, as well as with friendly interchanges of opinion, which encourage understanding among people and among the nations. All those present contributed to the store of important scientific material, which will be presented to those interested on the pages of the journal *Biologia Plantarum*.*

The symposium was opened in plenary session by the guests of honour, Academician M. Kh. Chailakhyan (USSR) and Professor K. V. Thimann (USA), who read their papers.

The papers and posters were divided into four sections according to their themes:

I. Regulation of Biosynthesis and Metabolism of Plant Hormones and Mechanism of their Action.

II. Function of Plant Hormones in the Regulation of Growth and Differentiation of Tissue.

III. Role of Plant Hormones in the Regulation of Flowering.

IV. Use of Plant Growth Regulators in Agriculture.

The contributions from the symposium will be published in the journal Biologia Plantarum in agreement with the themes of the sections, as far as possible.

The contributions submitted in Section I are published in the first Special Issue (Biol. Plant. No. 2—3, 1985), those from sections II, III and IV in the second one (Biol. Plant. No. 4—5, 1985). For lack of space some contributions will appear in number one and the following issues of Biologia Plantarum 1986. Their presentation at the Liblice Symposium will be noted.

The indisputable significance of the growth substances, both theoretical for the growth and morphoregulation of plants, and practical for the agricultural production has given to our Institute a strong impulse to organize further international meetings devoted to this problem. It is assumed that the plant growth regulators will be among the most effective factors leading to the intensification of agricultural production. The symposia and the pages of the Biologia Plantarum should serve these targets.

MILAN KUTÁČEK

The chairman of the Organizing Committee