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Figures are at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEW

SINK, K. C. (ed.): PETUNIA. MONOGRAPHS ON THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS, Vol. 9. — Springer Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York—Tokyo 1984. 256 pp., 76 figs. Cloth DM 98.—; approx. US \$ 38.50.

The Monographs on Theoretical and Applied Genetics have been published by Springer Verlag since 1975. All publications of this series cover modern aspects and new trends in genetics. In 17 chapters the authors of the last (9th) volume describe the genus *Petunia*, one of the important models of plant genetics.

In the opening chapters they refer on taxonomy, anatomy, morphology and cytology of the genus *Petunia*. The subsequent chapter deals with genetics of *Petunia*, includes a list of known nuclear genes and the genic map of *Petunia* chromosomes. In the other chapters the following topics are discussed: inheritance and biochemistry of pigments, male sterility, self-incompatibility, cell, tissue and organ culture in *Petunia*, protoplast regeneration, protoplast fusion, anther and pollen culture, haploidy, molecular biology, plant breeding, seed physiology and plant physiology. With the exception of chapter "Molecular biology", the literature review of which was completed as early as in 1980, in all the others an up-to-date survey of knowledge concerning the genus *Petunia* is presented. Special interest has been paid to the genetics and biochemistry of flower pigments, as well as to pollination biology, tissue cultures and somatic hybridization. In addition to theoretical data, certain chapters contain basic methodical procedures and indicate practical applications.

This publication is very important not only to research workers studying this plant material, but it will be of interest to all other plant geneticists, physiologists, molecular biologists, to students and all those concerned in general biology, too.

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