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BOOK REVIEW

PINFIELD, N. J., STOBART, A. K. (ed.): PLANT LIPIDS: TARGETS FOR MANIPULATION. – British Plant Growth Regulator Group, Monogr. No. 17, Parchments (Oxford) Ltd., Bristol, 1988. 110 pp.

The seventeenth Monograph published by the British Plant Growth Regulator Group is devoted to a highly actual theme: plant lipids. It consists of the following contributions: Molecular structure of fatty acid synthesising enzymes from developing seeds of oil seed rape (Slabas, A.R. *et al.*); The biosynthesis of triacylglycerols in oil – seeds with a perspective view on the role of plant growth regulators (Griffiths, G. *et al.*); Lipid body (oleosome) formation and compartmentation of storage fats in oil crops (Theimer, R. R.) – abstract only; The use of tissue culture in the improvement of oil crops (Jones, L. H.); Environmental effects on fatty acid quality (Mazliak, P.); Control of lipid synthesis: Examples of herbicide and auxin effect (Hardwood, J. L.); Regulation of sterol production and the effects on plant cell growth (Goad, L. J. *et al.*), and abstracts of three posters. The first two contributions describe the synthetic pathways for fatty acids and triacylglycerols. Several enzyme components have been purified and their amino acid sequence determined. The fourth contribution gives an important survey of possible use of *in vitro* techniques – clonal propagation, somaclonal variation and mutagenesis, *in vitro* selection, somatic hybridization, embryo rescue, use of haploids and genetic transformation – for the improvement of oil crops. The last three contributions deal with the effect of various environmental (temperature, water) and chemical (IAA, herbicides, paclobutrazol) factors on lipid synthesis.

The publication appeared in the standard small format, printed by offset as is usual with proceedings. It brings very useful information on lipid synthesis and content in oil crops and also some ideas for oil crop improvement.

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