

Randall, P.J., Delhaize, E., Richards, R.A., Munns, R. (ed.): **Genetic Aspects of Plant Mineral Nutrition**. (Developments in Plant and Soil Sciences. Vol. 50). - Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht - Boston - London, 1993. 414 pp.

This book contains some of the contributions presented at the Fourth International Symposium on Genetic Aspects of Plant Mineral Nutrition that was held at Canberra, Australia, in 1991. From the 50 papers, 35 have been already published in Plant and Soil 1992. Neither list of participants nor any other information on the Symposium program have been included into the book. According to the origin country of the first author, the following countries have been represented: Australia (19 papers), New Zealand (7), USA (6), UK (6), Germany (2), India (2), Japan (2), Brazil (1), Colombia (1), South Africa (1), Switzerland (1), Thailand (1) and Vietnam (1). It is apparent, that the majority of papers, *i.e.* 26, have been written by the authors from Australia and New Zealand. As indicated in the Preface by P.Randall, Chairman of the Symposium Organizing Committee and one of the book editors, "There is a strong emphasis in this volume on studies relating to plant breeding, the strategies to be adopted, the development of selection criteria and the testing and evaluation of promising genotypes." Generally, the Symposium (I guess) and consequently the published papers deal mainly with problems "to optimize the productivity of infertile and problem soils in order to meet increasing world-wide demand for agricultural and forestry products" as quoted from the Preface. The papers have not been sorted into chapters. Hence, let me list the most frequent topics represented in the published contributions. The effects of and tolerance to salinity and acid soils have been treated by many authors. In accordance with it, the effects of soil aluminium, manganese, calcium, arsenate, zinc, boron, cadmium and copper have been described. However, some papers deal with the effects of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and sodium. Finally, there are also papers reviewing nutrient efficiencies. And the following quotation from the Preface characterizes an important methodical aspect of recent analyses of nutrient deficiencies and toxicity: "One fifth of the papers presented in the oral sessions of the Symposium were in the "molecular" area and some of these are represented in this volume". Hence, contributions reviewing the effects of salt stress on plant gene expression have been included as well as experimental data on genetic control to toxic levels of some nutrients.

No index has been added to the Volume. It seems to me that the present book does not provide a broad and well balanced survey of recent achievements in the research area as specified by the Symposium title. On the other hand, it contains valuable information and data on the individual nutrient efficiency and especially toxicity.

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