

Jain, S.M., Gupta, P.K., Newton, R.J. (ed.): **Somatic Embryogenesis in Woody Plants. Volume 2 - Angiosperms.** - Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht - Boston - London 1995. 509 pp. US \$ 200.00.

Somatic embryogenesis has attracted research for 40 years. In general, the woody plants have been recalcitrant. The rapid progress of somatic embryogenesis in woody angiosperms in recent years resulted in this book. The editors selected genera and species of typical forest trees from different parts of the world (*Eucalyptus* spp., *Betula pendula*, *Santalum album*, *Populus* spp., *Quercus* spp., *Fraxinus americana*, *Salix* spp., *Azadirachta indica*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*), crop trees (*Citrus* spp., *Juglans regia*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Olea evropea*, *Theobroma cacao*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Mangifera indica*, *Castanea* spp., *Malus* spp., *Phoenix dactilifera*), ornamental trees and bushes (*Camellia* spp., *Rosa* spp., *Cercis canadensis*), crop climbers (*Vitis* spp.) and some woody *Gramineae* species (bamboo). It is certain that not everybody will find a genus or species of his or her interests. The group of woody angiosperms is too broad for 24 chapters of one book. Surprisingly 2 chapters deal with bamboo. All chapters contain general information (botany, geographic distributions, importance, etc.). In general, this is followed by the initiation of embryogenic cultures, culture maintenance, embryo development, germination and growth and development of the recovered plants. The chapters reflect state of the art in different species and authors' individuality. The reader can find short survey of organogenesis, information about protoplast culture, haploid production, genetic transformation, rejuvenation, or artificial seed production. Some chapters include recent results of the writers. The numerous tables, illustrative photos and figures are of a great value. Authors of chapters have used their own terms which can be confusing to readers. Nevertheless, the book is valuable source of information for everybody who is interested in somatic embryogenesis.

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