

Chapman, A.R.O., Brown, M.T., Lahaye, M. (ed.): **Development in Hydrobiology**. Fourteen International Seaweed Symposium. - Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht - Boston - London 1993. 724 pp. ISBN 0-7923-2309-2.

The book contains articles from Fourteenth International Seaweed Symposium held in Brest, France, August 16 - 21, 1992, mostly printed in *Hydrobiologia* 260/261, 1993. In nine chapters there are 94 presentations of about 270 participants. The conference was focused on seaweed research and involved whole spectrum of investigation and exploration of seaweeds: ecology, taxonomy, sociology, adaptations, life cycles, role in food chains, physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacy and food production. Thus the publication can be found interesting for wide community of scientific workers, students of biology and even people dealing with fishery or diving.

The first chapter presents plenary lectures. The first of them (K. Luning) is focused on ecological conditions, physiological responses and possible control of the seasonal growth of seaweeds. The second lecture (A. Jensen) presents possible technologies and list of main products based on algal production including possible way for solving the world alimentation crisis. The third lecture (F. Magne) is oriented mainly to industrial managers and explained the importance of basic research for practice. The second chapter (Taxonomy and general biology) contains morphologically oriented studies of different taxa from different places of the Earth, as well as genetic studies, studies concerning the response of algae to different environmental conditions (including UV-B) and even the virology of seaweeds. The articles included in the third chapter (Ecology) are focused on productivity measuring techniques and models, population differences and distribution and life history. The fourth chapter (Resources) tends to the mathematical explanation of the seaweed quality and quantity after exploration and harvesting. The paper in the fifth chapter (Cultivation, tissue culture) describes the most important species for industry and their cultivation demands. The sixth chapter (Physiology) describes the models simulating photosynthesis, carbon balance, nutrition and water regime in different conditions. The seventh (Chemical composition) and the eighth chapters (Chemical structure) deal with main practically important chemical products from seaweeds, physiologically active compounds, compounds important for taxonomic classification, and special method for isolation of these chemicals. The last chapter (Molecular biology) contains the taxonomic classification derived from DNA analyses.

Although the conception of this volume is focused on the more or less industrial aims (which are, of course, very important and forcing the research forward), the book is also full of new information useful and interesting for scientists from basic research. All the contributions have also the best quality from the formal point of view, but that is high standard expected of Kluwer Academic Publishers.

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