Savidge, R.A., Barnett, J.F., Napier, R. (ed.): **Cell and Molecular Biology of Wood Formation.** - BIOS Scientific Publishers, Oxford 2000. 530 pp. ISBN 1 85996 123 1.

Despite our modern, hi-tech world, there is still a great demand for wood and other tree products. The economic importance of wood has prompted extensive investigations into its physical properties, chemical composition and lignin biosynthesis. There exists massive scientific literature dedicated to wood anatomy, wood chemistry, and wood properties. In contrast, knowledge about the physiology of wood formation by the cambium remained rudimentary until recently. The recent meeting organized jointly by the SEB and EU COST ACTION E6 demonstrated the large interest in the cambium research among scientists working in various areas of plant biology. This book is based on the contributions presented at the Heriot Watt University meeting in March 1999. It reflexes the wide range of discussed aspects in wood formation and illustrates the benefit of combining viewpoints from the whole range of disciplines. The book is divided into 40 chapters written by prominent authors in particular fields. The understanding of the wood formation process is highly complex, and individual chapters summarize the results from biochemistry of seasonal cambial growth, role of cytoskeleton in wood formation, physiological effects of carbon dioxide, oxygen and phytohormons in cambial growth and biochemistry up to physiology of heartwood formation. Chapters describing detailed investigation of mutants with altered lignification, tracheary element formation in an *in vitro* system and the use of cell, tissue and organ culture for the study of cambial activity and wood formation are also included. References at the end of each chapter provide valuable source of almost complete information from the field.

Cell and Molecular Biology of Wood Formation presents to readers the integration of results from molecular, biochemical, physiological, cytological, and anatomical approaches. The book will be of great value for all researches involved in the studies of wood formation.

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