

Sopory, S.K., Oelmüller, R., Maheshwari, S.C. (ed.): **Signal Transduction in Plants. Current Advances.** - Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York 2001. 337 pp. EUR 138.00. ISBN 0-306-46671-6.

The book deals with signal transduction which is one of the most rapidly growing and developing field in plant research. Therefore, it could be interesting for many plant scientists and students of plant biology. On the other hand, signal transduction as subject is very wide and in about 340 pages, book it is not possible to even touch all main subject of "signal transduction in plants". Book itself as information medium is not ideal for the field where everyday new information appears because of normally long publishing period unless it is written as introduction to the subject with well thought-out reviews.

The book represents proceedings of the First ICGEB (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology) Symposium on Plant Signal Transduction. The meeting was held between October 4 and 6, 1999 in New Delhi, India. The book consists of 30 articles and index and it is not further divided into chapters or sections; each article is about ten pages long. Contributions are mostly research articles (without material and methods), however, a few reviews are also included.

The book refers to broad field of plant biology from

light perception (especially phytochromes) and photomorphogenesis through second messengers (articles concerning inositolphosphates, calcium, calmodulin, protein kinases), signal transduction of plant hormones (auxines and cytokinines) and signalling during abiotic and biotic stresses to signalling in disease resistance and plant cell death. Still, some articles as Functional Analysis of DNA Polymerase (A. Gaikwad *et al.*) stay outside of that range.

Technical implementation of the book suffers from imperfections usual in proceedings; quality of figures is not same and sporadically is very poor (e.g. Figure 5 on page 78: "Membrane localization of phytase" looks like nothing more then black rectangle).

In conclusion, this book provides an overview of what happened at the meeting and in the laboratories of contributors. Nevertheless the book may be useful for specialists in plant signal transduction or scientists who could not attend the meeting and are interested in some particular data or problems. In this situation it should be said that the title "Signal Transduction in Plants. Current Advances" promises more than it is possible to find.

J. MARTINEC (*Praha*)