

dangered and endemic plant *Adiantum reniforme* var. *sinensis* and the conservation strategies.] – Chin. Biodivers. **1**: 16-18, 1993. [In Chin.]

Xu, H.Z., Jin, Y.X., Jiang, M.X., Wu, J.Q.: [Spore propagation of *Adiantum reniforme* var. *sinensis* endemic to Three Gorges reservoir region.] – Resour. Environ. Yangtze Basin **7**: 237-240, 1998. [In Chin.]

Zhang, L., Luo, T.X.: [Advances in ecological studies on leaf lifespan and associated leaf traits.] – Acta phytocol. sin. **28**: 844-852, 2004. [In Chin.]

Kelly, G.J., Latzko, E.: **Thirty Years of Photosynthesis. 1974–2004.** – Springer, Berlin – Heidelberg – New York 2006. ISBN 3-540-28382-X. 414 pp., € 213.95, CHF 328.00, USD 259.00, GBP 154.00.

Sixteen review articles describing the carbon side of photosynthesis appeared in volumes 36–66 of the book series entitled “Progress in Botany”. From 1974 till 2004 the readers of this series had the immense possibility of getting well balanced information what happened in this field of research mainly in the previous two years (only exceptionally the interval was one or three years). The reviews were written by two well-known scientists—one from Germany and another one from Australia. This fact ensured a good balance of information originated all over the world. Their cooperation functioned for twelve long two-year periods, only once (1986) J.A.M. Holtum was a third co-author. Last four reviews were prepared by the sole Grahame J. Kelly because of retirement of Erwin Latzko.

The reviews reprinted in original form in this Volume had various subtitles characterizing the most important pool of information or anniversary. They are a good illustration of the history of photosynthetic carbon research and therefore let me present all of them here: Carbon Metabolism; Biochemical and Physiological Aspects of Carbon Metabolism; Control of Carbon Metabolism Through Enzyme Regulation and Membrane Mediated Metabolite Transport; Chloroplast Capability and the Uncertain Fate of CO₂; The Profound Effects of Illumination on the Metabolism of Photosynthetic Cells; On Land and at Sea; By Day and by Night; New Regulators of CO₂ Fixation, the New Importance of Pyrophosphate, and the Old Problem of Oxygen Involvement Revisited; On Regulation at the Cellular Level and at the Whole Plant Level, and Some Considerations Concerning the Interactions of These Regulatory Events with the Increasing Level of Atmospheric CO₂; Twenty Years of Following Carbon Cycle in Photosynthetic Cells; The Chloroplast’s Sesquicentenary, and Some Thoughts on

the Limits to Plant Productivity; The Carbon Metabolisms of Unstressed and Stressed Plants; In and Beyond the Chloroplast; Carbon Metabolism from DNA to Deoxyribose; Quantification and Manipulation; The Calvin Cycle’s Golden Jubilee.

Of course, almost every review explained new facts on the C₃, C₄, and CAM cycles and the respective models, enzymes, and reactions, dealt with experiments using chloroplasts and *in vitro* systems, with effects of stresses and ecological influences, regulation by environmental factors and pH, with photorespiration, chlororespiration, and mitochondrial respiration, starch, sucrose, and glycollate biosynthesis and metabolism, various primary and secondary photosynthates, with regulation of their production and features of their transport, CO₂ release and recapture, specific features in algae and higher aquatic plants, with resulting plant productivity, advances in used methods, *etc.* Every review was accompanied with hundreds of references; I regret only that full references (with titles of articles) started to be presented as late as in volume 60.

Even if this fine series of reviews reached now its end, it is a welcome source of information for young scientists who—I hope—will not only look at internet, but also read books printed on paper. Their lecture will be lead by a brief but good Subject Index. And I hope together with both authors that in a near future the idea of their beloved author Jonathan Swift (his Gulliver is mentioned in three mottos!), that photosynthesis will “be able to supply the Governor’s gardens with [condensed] sunshine at a reasonable rate”, will be realised. Or will there be more pigs transformed with a spinach gene (see p. 381) instead?

Z. ŠESTÁK (*Praha*)