

of roots, the second with physiology, and the third with root nodule and mycorrhizal associations. Attention is given to the quiescent center and to cytokinin synthesis in roots and its possible role in differentiation and cell cycle dynamics, reflecting current interest in these topics. The part that deals with morphology also has interesting chapters on root branching, budding, tree root systems, and the organization of aquatic and aerial roots. The part that deals with physiology is especially valuable in summarizing recent advances in this area. Clear evidence is presented for the presence and acropetal transport of indoleacetic acid in roots. The acropetal movement of [^{14}C]-indoleacetic acid as measured in roots of *Zea mays* is strongest in the first millimeter at the tip and rapidly diminishes only 6 millimeters away. Some basipetal movement was also noted for each root section analyzed.

In the chapter on root geotropism L. J. Audus gently lays to rest the Choloday-Went theory concerning geotropic response in roots and summarizes the evidence for root tip inhibitors. Not all will be convinced. Evidence on the role of amyloplasts as statoliths in the root cap is strong, however. Amyloplasts are readily redistributed in the cell by gravity, and roots with root caps removed lose all sensitivity to gravity, although normal elongation continues. It can be shown, further, that the renewal of gravity sensitivity is correlated with root cap regeneration and an increase in the formation of starch grains. In one study the number of starch grains in cells of the quiescent center increased more than 40-fold in the first six hours after decapping. Although these organelles may be sensitive to gravity, how its effect is transmitted to the cell is still not fully understood.

The last part of the book is entitled *Roots in Relation to Soil Microflora*. The focus in the chapters on nodules is principally developmental, and there are shorter chapters on mycorrhizal associations.

In view of the many ideas and new approaches suggested, some readers may be disappointed that the editors have not included their own comments or perhaps some of the discussion from the symposium. Small matter, however. *The Development and Function of Roots* will be a very useful reference for both students and researchers. It provides a synthesis of past results in the light of recent (1974) findings and it points to the many interesting questions still to be answered.

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