

"The beach at Cape Crozier during early spring; flocks of Adélies parade back and forth waiting for the right conditions under which to make a departure." [From *Breeding Biology of the Adélie Penguin*]

tween the center and the periphery. Although peripheral sites were less successful than those away from the edge of the colony, the effect was found mainly among younger breeders. For those eight years or older there was little or no effect.

I found some problems with the organization of the book. Although the methods are clearly outlined at the outset, with excellent definitions of all the terms used, their influence on the subject population is not dealt with until later. Thus on p. 192 we suddenly learn that banding, the foundation of the study, caused a 28 percent decline in survival during the following year, and the reader has to mentally check over the previous results to see which might have been affected. Another important fact that is not made explicit until chapter 8 is that during the early years of the study, when most birds of known age were quite young, reproductive success was generally lower than in later years. This must cause a bias in the results of some analyses involving data from several years.

The final chapter provides a discussion of deferred maturity in seabirds. Because breeding Adélies suffer heavy predation by leopard seals close to their colonies, the cost of breeding, in terms of adult survival, is high. This creates strong selection against breeding before the age at which the chance of success is good. The authors also deal briefly with possible factors regulating the population. They point out that the Adélie population of the Ross Sea has been declining over the past 20 years, casting some doubt on the theory that Antarctic penguin populations are expanding in response to a decline in the stocks of large whales.

Essentially this work is more akin to a long scientific paper than a book. It is dense with data, mostly in tabular form (over 100 tables and only 30 figures) and is aimed at professional ecologists. It is not casual reading, but no one interested in seabird biology or long-term population studies should be without it.

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Effects of CO₂ on Plants

CO₂ and Plants. The Response of Plants to Rising Levels of Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide. EDGAR R. LEMON, Ed. Published for the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Westview, Boulder, Colo., 1983. xxii, 280 pp., illus. \$25. AAAS Selected Symposia Series, 84. From a conference, Athens, Ga., May 1982.

Carbon dioxide occurs in the atmosphere at a concentration of approximately 335 parts per million, but experiments have shown that the optimum level for photosynthesis (in C3 plants) is about 1000 parts per million. Consequently an enrichment of CO_2 in the atmosphere can be considered to be a boon, since significant increases in crop yield may be expected. Because plants play a dominant role in carbon flux and storage, enhanced productivity resulting in an increased biomass would, in turn, result in an increase in the flux through the nitrogen and other major cycles. This book describes how as a result of the use of fossil fuels the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is increasing annually by over 1 part per million. The book considers the changes that are predicted to occur in the environment and discusses possible alterations in trends of plant growth in a situation where the atmospheric CO₂ values are approximately double present ones. This is predicted to occur within the next 100 years if the increase in CO_2 levels continues at present rates.

The volume is the proceedings of an international conference on rising atmospheric CO₂ and plant productivity. Its first chapter briefly discusses the necessity of assessing the far-reaching results of the use of fossil fuels and emphasizes the need for further investigation of the effects of elevated CO₂ levels on plant growth. The second chapter gives an overview of the changes in CO₂ concentration that are predicted to occur and describes the major effects such changes would have on climate and plant growth. A doubling in atmospheric CO₂ would cause the mean temperature of the earth to increase by approximately 2°C and also cause a change in the global pattern of precipitation. The profound consequences that these linked events would have on the biosphere are considered. Though an increased atmospheric CO₂ concentration might prove to be a boon to agriculture because it would increase crop yields, it is also potentially hazardous because it could disrupt the dynamic equilibrium of the earth's atmosphere and energy budget. The dire implications for the future are well worth consideration

The remaining six chapters form the core of the book. They review data on the response of photosynthesizing plants to levels of CO₂ approximately double current ones. The chapters are concerned with the many sites and levels of possible change to individual plants and plant communities over a spectrum of environmental conditions. It is evident that photosynthetic carbon fixation is increased by elevated CO₂ levels, and the opportunity to enhance plant productivity by exploiting increased atmospheric CO_2 is discussed. It is shown that the insufficient ambient CO₂ in the present atmosphere is a limitation to photosynthesis in C3 species and that a large portion of the newly fixed carbon can be lost by the process of photorespiration in these plants. It is concluded that a doubling of the atmospheric CO₂ will promote increased rates of CO₂ fixation, but there is no evidence to suggest that increased photosynthesis could prevent the rise in ambient CO₂. The discussion is taken one step further, to a consideration of more physiological aspects, such as whole leaf photosynthesis, stomatal response, and whole canopy transpiration. It is interesting to note that in addition to increasing the rate of photosynthesis an increased CO₂ level tends to alleviate water stress and salinity stress and in this way may further aid plant growth and development. The effects of an increased CO₂ level on both terrestrial and aquatic plant and microbial communities are fully reviewed, although the chapters on these subjects are of necessity more speculative than those dealing with photosynthesis, where more pertinent experimental data are available.

This slim volume does not attempt to provide answers but to provoke thought and to establish a basis for the evaluation of the effects of increasing CO₂ on plant communities, and hence on agriculture. Herein is a comprehensive assessment of the known responses of plants to elevated CO_2 levels. The book is a thorough and concise treatise on a subject that is of paramount importance for the future. CHRISTINE H. FOYER

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