

PREFACE

This issue of *Acta Biologica Szegediensis* is the Abstract Book for the 7th Congress of the Hungarian Society for Plant Physiology which is held in Szeged, June 24 to 27, 2002. It contains about 110 contributions from special fields of plant physiology, plant biology, plant biochemistry, ecophysiology and from the applied areas like agriculture, horticulture or forestry.

The 7th Congress marks a two-decade span of work and development of plant physiology and plant biology in Hungary since the first congress held in 1982. We are witnesses of radical changes in the research fields within the discipline. On the first congress sessions were devoted to *Transport, membrane, cold tolerance; Mineral nutrition; Production biology; Plant pathology; Photosynthesis; Tissue cultures and developmental physiology*. The present congress in 2002 is held in a historically different age: in the third millennium, in the postgenomic era, and under totally altered socio-economic conditions. These are reflected in our program in the sessions of different aspects of *Functional genomics; Abiotic stress and environmental pollution; Biotic environmental stress; Photosynthesis and UV-B radiation; Plant nutrition and yield*, and a broad spectrum of *Ecophysiology*.

In this Abstract Book the present *Sessions* start with the abstracts of oral presentations followed by the posters (marked with “P” in the code number). At the end of the Book, an alphabetical Author Index is listed. Some of the abstracts needed shortening, modification or correction in English. In these cases, care was taken not to alter the content which remained the author’s responsibility.

The two-decade long history of the plant physiology congresses in Hungary may authorize me to write a few words about the organizational background of this process. The birth of the first organization of the Hungarian plant physiologist dates back to 1981. A National Committee with eleven members under the aegis of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was organized by Prof. Acad. Gábor Farkas, and it was affiliated to the Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology (FESPP) in 1982. A few years later, in 1986, the committee was extended to more than 60 members, and as soon as it was possible after the political changes, the independent Society for Plant Physiology was established in 1991. The society has continued its work with renewed energy. We have established the “Farkas Gábor” Award and Plaque for those who made their best in the research and education in plant physiology. In 1995 we founded the “*Scientia Amabilis Foundation for the Hungarian Plant Physiology*” for the support of young researchers in plant biology and we are supporting the biannual Scientific Student Competitions. It was a great honor for us to organize the 12th Congress of the FESPP in Budapest two years ago, which was a very successful meeting of about 700 plant scientists from 50 countries.

I express my gratitude and thanks to my colleagues, people and institutions who helped to organize this Congress.

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