

PREFACE

Bryophytes are being used increasingly for the study of physiological and biochemical aspects of plant development. It is ease of handling, together with their simple organization and faster multiplication rate under controlled environmental conditions, that makes these plants excellent materials for investigations on developmental biology. An interesting aspect that makes bryophytes commercially important, as well, is the extraction of useful chemical constituents from their tissues.

With the accumulation of knowledge in the newer areas of investigations and the increasing degree of specialization, the most satisfactory way of bringing together authentic information in one volume is to invite the specialists in each area to contribute. The response to our invitation has been overwhelming, and we sincerely thank all the contributors for their cooperation. It has been a pleasure for us to prepare the manuscripts for press.

The topics presented in this volume are broadly of five categories: use of protoplasts, callus, and mutants for investigations on controlled growth and differentiation; physiological and biochemical aspects of moss protonema differentiation; physiology of reproduction; developmental physiology of liverworts; and production of physiologically active substances by bryophytes. In a work of this nature some amount of overlapping of information between different chapters is unavoidable.

It is hoped that this volume will be found useful by researchers in the field of developmental physiology and biochemistry of bryophytes.

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