

This latest volume again contains articles of interest to a broad range of botanists, but with particular emphasis this time on developmental and other processes mediated by the classical plant hormones and the "hormone-like" oligosaccharins, and on aspects of evolution and plant life-cycles.

The article by Aldington and Fry deals with the "oligosaccharins", the group of "hormone-like" carbohydrates that appear to have roles in diverse developmental and defence-related processes. Jackson considers the evidence relating to the hypothesis, often uncritically accepted, that the integration of growth and development of root and shoot is mediated by hormonal flux between the two organs. McFadden's article is concerned with the evolution of chloroplasts in algae, specifically in the cryptomonads where it appears from morphological and molecular evidence that no less than four different evolutionary lineages are involved. In the final article Ligrone and his colleagues turn their attention to a little studied aspect of the fundamental phenomenon of "alternation of generations", namely the detailed relationship between the two generations at the placental interface. This relationship is explored in a comparative way across the major groups of land plants.

Cover illustration: Longitudinal section of *Rhodomonas salina* showing the nucleomorph within the pyrenoid. The pyrenoid has an invagination, which is lined by the two innermost chloroplast membranes, within which the nucleomorph is positioned.

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