

Preface

The organism that we recognise as plant is the result of integrated metabolic functions administered by a number of factors, including hormones. Out of these chemicals, five (Auxins, Gibberellins, Cytokinins, Abscissic acid and Ethylene) are well recognized for their functions but the more recent ones (Brassinosteroids, Salicylic acid, Polyamines and Jasmonates) can not be excluded from the list of hormones because of their involvement in important functions of plants.

This book is providing information related with Salicylic acid (SA) that was first noticed to be a major component in the extract from *Salix* (willow) bark and used as an anti-inflammatory drug. It belongs to phenolic group and is ubiquitous in plants. SA is involved in signal transduction, pondering over the plant resistance to stress and generates significant impact on photosynthesis, transpiration, uptake and transport of ions and growth and development. However, the observations related with this hormone are very much scattered it was, therefore, decided to compile all in the form of a book, based on 13 chapters written by various experts, working in this field. A total of 31 experts have explained their results based on the practical work carried over by them and of others on various selected aspects of plant growth and development. After going through these chapters it may be concluded that the hormone has a wide range of actions by involving genes and / or the membranes.

With great pleasure, we extend our sincere thanks to all the contributors for their timely preparation of excellent and up to dated contributions and also for their consistent support and cooperation.

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