

Preface to the Second Edition

THE RAPIDITY with which advances have been made in biochemistry during the last decade are particularly impressive in the field of plant biochemistry. This is due to no small degree to the developments in many biochemical techniques which now allow intransigent plant material to be examined with the same degree of sophistication as *E. coli* or liver. Both the expansion in factual information and the development of biochemical concepts in plants has inevitably meant that a second edition of *Introduction to Plant Biochemistry* has had to be a new and much longer book. Our original aim however has remained the same: to provide for students who have already studied general biochemistry for one year, a thorough and rigorous voyage through the major fields of plant biochemistry.

The only chapter which stands largely unchanged is the first, in which the philosophy of our approach is outlined. Chapter 2 is now confined to bioenergetics; the section on enzyme kinetics which was present in this chapter in the first edition has been omitted. We regret this but the enormous expansion of the topic did not allow us to treat it adequately in the space available; however, several excellent specialist texts are now available.

Two characteristics of the text should be emphasized; firstly where appropriate, if sufficient information is available, the metabolic activities of plants have been compared with those of animals or bacteria. Secondly the number of summarizing diagrams has been increased so as to provide a birds eye view of the details being considered in the text.

Two appendices are included: one explaining the intricacies of the Cahn-Ingold-Prelog nomenclature which is now widely used to specify absolute configuration at chiral centres; the second gives a comprehensive list of units and dimensions based on the SI unit system.

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We would welcome any comments which would help to improve the acceptability of future editions of the book.

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