

REPRODUCTIVE ALLOCATION IN PLANTS

Edward G. Reekie & Fakhri A. Bazzaz

Plants utilize many different resources and the proportions of these different resources can vary widely among environments. Which of these resources should be used as the currency in which to measure reproductive allocation? How do we decide whether a particular structure/function is part of the reproductive effort? Many structures within plants are not easily assigned to reproductive versus vegetative categories. Flowers in many species for example, photosynthesize. Further, reproduction can stimulate rates of resource uptake in many plant species. How do we assess resource allocation when the pool of resources being allocated varies? Much of the variation in plant reproductive allocation is the result of phenotypic plasticity whereas most of the theory that has been developed only applies to genetic differentiation.

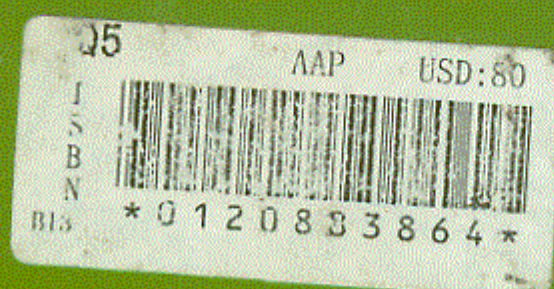
REPRODUCTIVE ALLOCATION IN PLANTS examines the ecological and evolutionary explanations for variation in plant reproductive allocation from the perspective of the underlying physiological mechanisms controlling reproduction and growth. An international team of leading experts have prepared chapters summarizing the current state of the field and offering their views on the factors determining reproductive allocation in plants. This will be a valuable resource for senior undergraduate students, graduate students and researchers in ecology, plant ecophysiology, and population biology.

Edward G. Reekie (Professor and Head of Biology, Acadia University) and Fakhri A. Bazzaz (Professor Emeritus, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University) have been collaborating on the study of plant reproductive ecology for over 20 years. Their seminal series of papers on the meaning and measurement of reproductive allocation has changed how ecologists view life history evolution in plants.

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