"Current Comments"

Highly Cited Botanical Articles from Botanical and Other Journals

January 27, 1975

Number 4

Last week we listed 90 highly cited articles originally published in plant physiology journals. We now provide a list of 101 highly cited botanical articles published in other journals. All were cited more than 50 times during the period 1961-1972. They appeared in 41 different journals. In order of the number of articles each contributed, the journals are:

- 12 Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA
- Amer. J. Bot.
- J. Cell Biol.
- Phytochemistry
- Canad. J. Bot.
- J. Biol. Chem.
- Nature
- Plant Soil
- Science
- Annu. Rev. Phytopathol.
- Biochem. J.
- Biochim. Biophys. Acta
- **Ecology**
- J. Biophys. Biochem. Cytol.
- J. Ultrastruct. Res.
- Phytopathology
- Ann. Bot.
- Arch. Biochem. Biophys.
- Biochem, Biophys, Res.
- J. Amer. Chem. Soc.
- Adv. Bot. Res.
- Amer. Naturalist
- Analyt, Chem
- Arch. Mikrobiol.
- Riol Rev
- Calif. St. Water Poll. Contr. Bd. Publ.
- Cold Spring Harbor Symp.
- Ecol. Monogr.
- Flora
- 1 Amer Oil Chemists Soc.
- J. Brit. Grassland Soc.
- J. Exp. Bot.
- Meded. Landbouwhogesch. Wag.
- Mycologia
- Naturwissenschaften
- New Phytologist
- Phytopathol. Zschr.
- Proc. Chem. Soc. London
- Stain Technol.
- Symp. Soc. Exp. Biol.
- Zschr. Zellforsch. Mikrosk. Anat.

As you can see, only about sixteen would be conventionally classified as botanical journals. Those sixteen contributed only 39 of the articles. The other 25 contributed 62.

In compiling previous lists of highly cited articles, we scanned the Science Citation Index ® (SCI®) data base for articles published by journals identified with a particular specialty. In our study of botany, we attempted to find articles from other journals as well. This isn't as easy as it sounds. It is impossible to scan all article titles published in the many nonbotanical journals we have identified as important to botany.2

An algorithmic approach was necessary. We used the simple method of tracking down authors. It's simple because we have the data base accessible. First we selected highly cited articles published in botany journals. Then we scanned the SCI data base for other highly cited articles by the same authors. In this way we were able to identify articles from multidisciplinary and other specialty journals. As additional articles were identified, we repeated the process with the names of their secondary authors, and so on.

The list of 101 articles which follows begins appropriately enough with three articles by Nobel laureates. The names of many authors reappear. Notable in this respect are Arnon, Whatley, Mollenhauer, and Muhlethaler. All of them published four or more of these papers.

There is an interesting chronological difference between this list of articles and that from the five plant physiology journals. The articles listed below tend to be older. About 30% of them were published prior to the 1960s.

One can tentatively conclude that in botany as many "classic" papers are published in multidisciplinary and other journals as in botany journals. The articles listed below received more than 10,000 citations. Of those, about 7000 were to articles in non-botanical journals.

The nature of the research that this list of articles reports is roughly but usefully indicated by the words that occur most frequently in the titles. Excluding syntactical signposts (of, the, and, etc.), and such words as plant, leaf, root, cell, etc., the most frequently occurwords are: photosynthesis photosynthetic; (photo)phosphorylation; carbon dioxide (fixation, compensation, etc.);

siology journals. Current Contents (CC) No. 3, 2 January

Highly cited articles from plant phy-

enzymes and the names of particular enzymes; microbodies and the names of known and investigated -somes; protein(s) (synthesis, storage, etc.); and, finally, in a multiplicity of settings, structure (microstructure, ultrastructure, fine-structural, etc.).

As with the previous list, the articles here are arranged by year of publication. The group for each year is alphabetized by first author.

Journal citation studies. 18. cited botany journals. CC No. 2, 13 January 1975.

Highly Cited Articles of Botanical Interest from Botanical and Other Journals

Times Cited 1961-1972

1975, p. 5-9.

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