



C I E C



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ADVANCES IN RESEARCH ON PLANT-GROWTH BIOREGULATORS

AGROSTEMIN

New Source of Natural Allelopathic Chemicals
for Better Plant Growth and Plant Productivity Regulation

A COMPILATION
of Reports on its Use and Efficiency

Edited by
E. WELTE and I. SZABOLCS

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTRE OF FERTILIZERS
BELGRADE • GOETTINGEN • VIENNA

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CONTENTS

I INTRODUCTION

Foreword	
Đ. B. JELENIĆ, President of CIEC	9
Preface to the Edition	
E. WELTE, Vicepresident of CIEC and I. SZABOLCS, Editor-in-Chief of CIEC	11
Allelopathy and allelochemicals from <i>agrostemma githago</i> as theoretical background of agrostemin production and use as a natural plant-growth bioregulator	
Đ. B. JELENIĆ	13

II INTERACTION BETWEEN FERTILIZERS AND NATURAL PLANT-GROWTH BIOREGULATORS

(selected contributions from WORKING GROUP 10 of the 9th WORLD FERTILIZER CONGRESS of CIEC 11-16 June 1984 in BUDAPEST, Hungary)

Effect of plant growth regulators and nitrogen on yields in cereals	
J. PETR	33
Preliminary studies of the influence of NPK fertilizers and growth-regulating substances on growth and yield of sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus L.</i>) in calcareous soils	
A. M. SALAMA and I. BUZAS	36
The influence of auxin (IAA) and microelements on the mineral management of soya	
M. KOTER, J. CZAPLA and G. NOWAK	43
Identification of gibberellic acid from <i>agrostemma githago L.</i> seed	
M. M. VRBASKI, B. GRUJIĆ-INJAC and S. R. VRBASKI	48
The effect of agrostemin on yield, and nitrogen and amino acids content in kernels of some cultivated plants	
S. JEVTIĆ, V. JANJIĆ, M. TRIFUNOVIĆ and V. BOGDANOVIĆ	52
The effects of the natural bioregulator 'agrostemin' on the quality of maize (<i>Zea Mays</i>)	
B. GAJIĆ, D. VACIĆ, E. KIŠ and D. GAJIĆ	59
The effect of agrostemin on metabolism and translocation of allantoin in germinating wheat seedlings	
R. KALEZIĆ and M. PLESNIČAR	63
The compatibility of the natural bioregulator 'agrostemin', and the mineral fertilizer 'CAN' and their physiological-biochemical effects on maize (<i>Zea mays L.</i>)	
B. GAJIĆ, D. VACIĆ, G. RASULIĆ and D. JELENIĆ	68
The influence of the natural plant-growth bioregulator 'agrostemin' on "Burley-T" type tobacco	
D. MARIČIĆ, V. KOJIČIĆ and D. JELENIĆ	74
The effects of natural plant-growth bioregulator 'agrostemin' on grape yield and some uvological traits of cardinal and muscat Hamburg table grape vine varieties	
L. AVRAMOV, D. JELENIĆ, G. NIKETIĆ-ALEKSIĆ, M. AVRAMOV-IVIĆ and Lj. STEFANOVIĆ	78

The effects of the natural plant-growth bioregulator 'agrostemin' on seed production of jimsonweed (<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.) J. V. JANKOVIĆ and G. D. JELIĆ	83
Interaction of Mg, B, Zn-nutrients and the plant-growth bioregulator 'agrostemin' on the growth of grape vine D. JELENIĆ and V. LIČINA.....	86
Conclusions of Working Group 10, IXth World Fertilizer Congress of CIEC 1984, Budapest DE BEAUCORPS (F).....	91

III SUPPLEMENT: MECHANISM OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN ASSIMILATE DISTRIBUTION AND PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS (selected papers)

The effect of agrostemin on wheat phosphorus metabolism and photophosphorylation M. PLESNIČAR, V. JANJIĆ and R. KALEZIĆ	95
The effect of agrostemin on wheat respiration R. KALEZIĆ, M. PLESNIČAR and B. SINŽAR	103
The effect of allantoin and agrostemin on some processes in maize (<i>Zea mays</i> , L.) K. KONSTANTINOV	108
The effect of agrostemin on mesophyll cells of soybean and sunflower leaves R. VUJIČIĆ and D. BOJOVIĆ-CVETIĆ	114
The effect of agrostemin upon N, P, and K contents in some plant species M. SARIĆ	115
The effect of agrostemin upon the dry-matter weight of some plant species B. KRSTIĆ.....	120
The effect of agrostemin on the rate of photosynthesis in some plant species Ž. STANKOVIĆ.....	127
Tryptophan content in the F ₁ -generation of wheat treated with agrostemin B. GAJIĆ	130
The effect of agrostemin on cytokinin synthesis during germination of soybean V. SAJDL and S. KAPOR	134
Conclusions M. ANDRAŠČIK (ČSSR), F. WAREING (U.K.), G. SEMBDNER (DDR) and Dj. B. JELENIĆ (Yu)	141

IV APPENDIX

Index of 94 references of research about plant-growth bioregulators espec. Agrostemin during the period 1954-1986.....	145
List of contributors.....	153
CIEC-activities since its foundation in 1932/33 (inner side of the back-cover)	

I INTRODUCTION



F O R W O R D

It is with great pleasure, pride, and satisfaction that I hereby introduce the CIEC SPECIAL EDITION of scientific papers on advances in research on plant growth bioregulators, especially "Agrostemin" as a natural allelopathic chemical invented and named by Dr. Danica Gajić, Yugoslavia. These papers were presented at the 9th CIEC World Congress 1984 in Budapest to the field of interaction between fertilizers and natural plant growth bioregulators affecting the whole nutrient uptake process. This special issue is published at the request of CIEC members and supplemented with papers on the subject of the "Mechanism of assimilate distribution and plant growth regulators" presented at an international conference in 1981 in Piestany, Czechoslovakia.

With pleasure because the International Scientific Center of Fertilizers (CIEC) is so alive that through regular scientific and technical activities since its foundation in Rome 1932/33 it gives birth to new roots of science and technology for further progress in food production and fertilizer management.

With pride because CIEC contributes to research on plant nutrition as an international organization for more than 50 years on a worldwide scale, independent of national or industrial interests, only feeling responsible for improvements in food production as a fundamental demand for the existence of mankind.

With satisfaction because the proceedings of CIEC's numerous conferences and symposia offer the many results and experience made by its members in various countries of the world to all who are interested in studies on plant nutrition problems under various regional, climatic, ecological, and economic aspects.

I therefore hope that this brochure will close the gap at the interference between natural growth factors in the soil-plant system and plant nutrients added to the soil through fertilizers, contributing in the most efficient way to food production in the world.

Belgrade, July, 1987

Prof. Dr. Djurdje B. JELENIC
President of CIEC



P R E F A C E
to the CIEC Special Edition
"Advances in Research on
Plant Growth Bioregulators"



The International Scientific Center of Fertilizers, CIEC (Centre International des Engrais Chimiques), founded in Rome 1932/33, is a wellknown international and independent organization dealing on a scientific level with the agrochemical, agrotechnical, and agroecological aspects of fertilizer use and fertilizing technology.

In view of the increasing need for food in the struggle against famine in the world, a more thorough knowledge of and extensive experience in agricultural production methods are the most important instruments in protecting people from hunger and misery. In coping with this worldwide task fertilizers occupy a key position among the factors influencing plant food production.

CIEC has pursued these important goals since its foundation more than 50 years ago. The success achieved so far is reflected in many resolutions, congresses, additional scientific meetings, and symposia in conjunction with CIEC's general assemblies (see reverse side of cover).

At the 9th World Fertilizer Congress of CIEC held in Budapest, Hungary, on June 11–14, 1984, the 50th anniversary (golden jubilee) of the CIEC was dedicated especially to the most pressing and critical problem of today:

"Fight Against Hunger Through Improved Plant Nutrition"

A special group of scientific papers of this congress dealt with the application of natural bioregulators in connection with the phenomenon "allelopathy" affecting the effectiveness of fertilizer use, as well as the productivity of plants in many lines (germination, nutrient uptake, biomass synthesis, yield, quality of harvested products, etc.).

Major effects of plant growth regulators are mediated through the biosynthesis, metabolism, translocation, and action of the endogenous hormones by controlling the pattern of growth and the distribution of assimilates within the plant. However, essential results applicable in farming practice are as yet relatively scarce.

More basic research should be focussed on the regulatory role of these natural substances and on the mechanism of their action.

An interesting plant growth regulator with allelopathic effects, studied recently by a group of Yugoslavian scientists, is the extract from the corn cockle seed (*Agrostemma githago* L.) called "AGROSTEMIN", invented and named by Dr. Danica Gajić, Yugoslavia. Their findings seem to be very promising, having indicated that this bioregulator of natural origin exerts a broad spectrum of distinct activities.

Due to the positive results in the application of Agrostemin reported from field experiments of various cultivated plants and under controlled growth conditions CIEC's Editorial Board was encouraged to publish a special issue on this plant bioregulator with strong allelopathic effects by compiling all reports on this subject held at the 9th World Fertilizer Congress of CIEC of June, 1984, in Budapest. This publication will be supplemented by other related papers presented at an international conference 1981 in Piestany, CSSR, on the mechanism of the assimilate distribution affected by plant growth regulators.

It is hoped that this compilation will emphasize the need for more research in the field of allelopathic chemicals – a research sector which has really been neglected in the past and which deserves more attention in the future.

Prof. Dr. Istvan SZABOLCS
Editor-in-Chief of CIEC

Prof. em. Dr. Erwin WELTE
Vice President of CIEC

BUDAPEST – GOETTINGEN
July, 1987