

FOREST PRODUCTS BIOTECHNOLOGY

Forest Products Biotechnology, Alan Bruce and John W. Palfreyman (eds.), Taylor & Francis Ltd., London, 1998, 326 pp., hardcover, price 49.95 GBP, ISBN 0-7484-0415-5

During last decade significant advances have occurred in both molecular methodologies and basic understanding of biotechnological processes associated with a production of a wide range of useful natural substances. The most exciting research findings and developments on individual topics pertinent to forest biotechnologies are discussed on pages of the excellent monograph entitled *Forest Products Biotechnology*, published by Taylor & Francis Ltd.

This landmark volume presents articles by team experts from leading laboratories around the world. It starts with an introductory chapter that reviews the structure and anatomy of wood, followed by 18 chapters on various aspects of the wood degradation, biopulping and bleaching, biotechnological production of special secondary metabolites, drugs and wood composites, as well as biochemical conversion of lignocellulosics to ethanol. In addition, included are chapters that cover the ways of resolving some of the environmental

problems to reduce any adverse impact on the environment by forest industries. Each chapter considers the current understanding of the wood composites and biotechnological process alongside the potential utilization of those qualities by industry.

Besides timber, pulp or paper, other forest products including secondary metabolites were once considered to be waste substances. Today their true value is understood. With that knowledge comes exciting possibilities and technological advances.

Forest Products Biotechnology addresses topics relevant to both environmental and biotechnological interests, and is aimed at biotechnologists, microbiologists, chemists and engineers.

Jaroslav Ďurkovič (Zvolen, Slovakia)

Proceedings of the Second International Wood Biotechnology Symposium, editor A. Jamieson, North Forest Products Ltd., Ridgley, Australia, 1999, 258 pp., softcover, price 60 AUD, ISBN 0-646-36895-8.

The symposium was held in March 10-12, 1997, in Canberra, Australia. The audiences for the volume include impressive team of experts in plant molecular biology and wood biotechnology from 13 countries. The proceedings offers new insights into molecular mechanisms of the wood biosynthesis and genetic engineering. To a huge regret, the volume is

published without manuscript editing, in rough versions of submitted papers or abstracts only. Even in this form it is a valuable source of information

Jaroslav Ďurkovič (Zvolen, Slovakia)