

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	VI
<i>Preface</i>	VII
<i>Abbreviations</i>	VIII

Part 1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Atmospheric N ₂	1
1.2 Non-Biological Forms of N ₂ Fixation	1
1.3 Biological Forms of N ₂ Fixation.....	4
1.4 N ₂ Fixation in Natural Ecosystems	10
1.5 N ₂ Fixation in Forestry and Recultivation	12
1.6 N ₂ Fixation in Agriculture.....	14

Part 2 N₂ FIXATION OF THE LEGUMINOSAE 16

2.1 The Microsymbiont	16
2.1.1 Introduction	16
2.1.2 Surface Properties	18
2.1.3 Effectivity of Rhizobia and Survival in the Soil	20
2.2 The Macrosymbiont.....	26
2.3 Nodulation	29
2.3.1 Recognition and Attachment of Rhizobia	31
2.3.2 Root Infection.....	36
2.3.3 Autoregulation.....	50
2.4 Different Forms of Nodules	53
2.4.1 Determinate Nodules	56
2.4.2 Indeterminate Nodules	59
2.5 Metabolism of N ₂ Fixation.....	60
2.5.1 The Enzyme Nitrogenase.....	60
2.5.2 H ₂ Production	64
2.5.3 The Oxygen Paradox	66
2.5.3.1 Endosymbiont Controlled Regulatory Mechanisms	68
2.5.3.2 Physiological Adaptations of the Host	70
2.5.3.3 Morphological Adaptations of the Host.....	74
2.5.4 Ammonia Assimilation.....	76

2.6 Influence of the Environment.....	79
2.6.1 Nutrient Requirements	80
2.6.2 Soil pH.....	89
2.6.3 Temperature.....	91
2.6.4 Soil Moisture	92
2.6.5. Salinity.....	95
2.6.6 Presence of Compatible Rhizobia.....	96
Part 3 ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES FOR N₂ FIXATION.....	98
3.1 Introduction	98
3.2 Direct Methods	100
3.2.1 Stable Isotope Techniques	100
3.2.1.1 Methodology for ¹⁵ N Analyses.....	100
3.2.1.2 Utilisation of ¹⁵ N ₂	102
3.2.1.3 ¹⁵ N Dilution Measurements	103
3.2.1.4 ¹⁵ N Natural Abundance Measurements.....	109
3.2.2 The Nitrogen-Difference Method.....	115
3.2.2.1 Basis of the Technique	115
3.2.2.2 Applicability	115
3.3 Indirect Methods.....	117
3.3.1 Xylem Solute Technique	117
3.3.1.1 The Principle Behind the Technique.....	117
3.3.1.2 Collection of N-Solutes	124
3.3.1.3 Advantages and Drawbacks of the Xylem Sap Technique	126
3.3.2 The Acetylene Reduction Assay.....	128
3.3.2.1 Introduction	128
3.3.2.2 The Principle Behind the Technique.....	128
3.3.2.3 Analysis of Ethylene by Gas Chromatography	131
3.3.2.4 Incubation Techniques	132
3.3.2.5 Calibrations of Acetylene Reduction Assays.....	136
3.3.2.6 Merits and Problems of Acetylene Reduction Assays.....	138

3.3.2.7 Alternative Procedures to Measure N ₂	139
Fixation.....	139
3.3.2.8 Conclusions	141
Part 4 SUPERNODULATING LEGUMES	144
4.1 Introduction.....	144
4.2 General Characteristics	146
4.3 Symbiotic Performance and the Effect of Nitrate.....	149
4.4 Carbon and Nitrogen Metabolism	154
4.4.1 Introduction	154
4.4.2 Nodules as Sinks for Carbon and Nitrogen	155
4.4.3 The Significance of Recently Fixed Carbon	159
4.4.4 Effects of Irradiance	162
4.4.5 Does Fruit Production Affect N ₂ Fixation?	163
4.4.6 Agricultural Value of the Supernodulation Character	165
Part 5 MEANS TO IMPROVE N₂ FIXATION.....	167
5.1 Introduction.....	167
5.2 Current Approaches	168
5.2.1 General Aspects	168
5.2.2 Inoculant Production	170
5.2.3 Types of Inoculant and their Application.....	171
5.2.4 How Successful Can Inoculation be in the Field?.....	174
5.2.5 Production of Superior Rhizobia	175
5.2.6 Production of Superior Legumes.....	176
5.2.7 Environmental Limitations.....	179
5.3 Potential for Future Benefits.....	181
5.3.1 Common Considerations	181
5.3.2 Future Research Priorities	182
<i>References</i>	186
<i>Subject Index.....</i>	240
<i>Appendices.....</i>	246
Appendix 1	246
Appendix 2	247
Appendix 3	248