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ACTA BIOLOGICA CRACOVIENSIS

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**Proceedings of the
XVII International Congress
on Sexual Plant Reproduction**

**July 9–13, 2002
Lublin, Poland**



Polish Academy of Sciences – Cracow Branch

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Vol. 45/1 (2003)

The Editor is deeply grateful to those listed below who have generously given their time to review manuscripts submitted to this special volume of *Acta Biologica Cracoviensia Series Botanica* (Vol. 45/1, 2003) with papers presented at the XVII International Congress on Sexual Plant Reproduction held on July 9–13, 2002 in Lublin, Poland.

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PREFACE

The Seventeenth International Congress on Sexual Plant Reproduction, held in Lublin from July 9th to 13th, 2002, was part of a series of embryological symposia launched in Paris back in 1968. It was the second event hosted by Lublin, the first being the Sixth Congress organized by Professor Bohdan Rodkiewicz in 1980.

The present volume, a special issue of *Acta Biologica Cracoviensia Series Botanica*, contains a selection of papers delivered at the Seventeenth Congress during plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations. The Congress was comprised of twelve sessions with 56 oral presentations and nearly 100 poster presentations. The guest speakers included Michiel T.M. Willemse of Wageningen, the Netherlands, Mauro Cresti of Siena, Italy, Maciej Zenkteler of Poznań, Poland, Vipen K. Sawhney of Saskatchewan, Canada, Anna M. Koltunow of Osmond, Australia, and Tatyana B. Batygina of St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Congress was a good opportunity to present the latest achievements, to discuss current topics of plant reproduction, and to exchange more general ideas. One should perhaps draw special attention to a talk by Dr. Elizabeth Mathys-Rochon of France, delivered at the end of the Congress. As a person approaching retirement and looking at life and work with the benefit of long experience, the speaker pointed out that legal controls over dissemination of mutant or transgenic plants continues to be far from perfect. She stressed that even an effective regulatory framework cannot provide a sufficient safeguard against the adverse effects of genetic manipulation, as given our current knowledge we are unable to foresee the consequences. Dr. Mathys-Rochon also pleaded with the Congress participants and their professional communities to be particularly careful and diligent in genetic experiments and to bear in mind the responsibility they shoulder with respect to the effects that practical application of their research could have.

Our special thanks are due to Professor Vipen K. Sawhney of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Professors Michiel T. M. Willemse and André van Lammeren of Wageningen, the Netherlands, for their very useful advice accompanying the organization of the Congress.

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For the organizers of the XVII International Congress on Sexual Plant Reproduction