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BOOK REVIEW

YOUNG, R. S.: COBALT IN BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY. — Academic Press, New York—London 1979. 147 pp. $ 27.50.

The purpose of this book is to review the literature on cobalt in various biological systems. The first four chapters deal with the occurrence of cobalt in such media as soils, fertilizers, water and its effect on algae, bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms. Special attention is paid to physiological and biochemical aspects of cobalt in plants and to its role in animal and human nutrition. The chapter entitled Cobalt in plants summarizes many effects of cobalt ranging from its action in photosynthesis and nitrogen metabolism to influencing such complex processes as growth and yield. The last chapter brings together principal analytical procedures for determining a low content of cobalt in biological media and materials.

The text of the book is well documented with over a thousand of references. The data referring to the cobalt content in soils, fertilizers, waters, plants, hays, pastures, trees and animal products are listed in Tables (7) and represent a valuable source of information.

This book is of considerable value not only for research workers and specialists in this particular field but also for those with general interest in trace elements and their role in biochemistry and physiology.

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