

A drastic reduction in MI was observed in the roots treated for a short period with cannabis. This inhibitory effect of the alkaloid can result from either obstruction of the onset of prophase or to an arrest of one of the mitotic phases. In fact, the alkaloid, due to its action on the spindle, causes an arrest in metaphase, producing a high percentage of this stage at the expense of the prophase. But the mitotic phase numbers were very low. Thus, the reduction in MI must be due mainly to the inhibitory action of the chemical on the onset of mitosis, in spite of the metaphase arrest. Therefore cannabis differs from colchicine action. The latter causes an increase in MI due to the metaphase arrest as well as to its stimulatory action on mitosis (DAVIDSON and MACLEOD 1966, WEBSTER and DAVIDSON 1969). This led us to conclude that cannabis causes a partial effect on spindle formation and also showed a mitodepressive effect particularly after long treatment. In this respect it is largely similar to other narcotic alkaloids (DEYSSON 1968).

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BOOK REVIEW

BLAKER, A. A.: **Field Photography. Beginning and Advanced Techniques.** — W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco 1976. 451 pp. 156 illus. \$ 19.95, £ 12.60.

Hundreds of photographs demonstrating the scientific activity are produced daily, but their scientific value is only rarely combined with an aesthetic sensation. That is why the book being reviewed has attracted my attention. The author's aim is to advise the reader how to take and produce technically and aesthetically perfect photographs of natural, mostly botanical objects. From this point of view the chapters dealing with special problems of natural and scientific photography, e.g. chapters Comprehension of the Picture (Ethics and accuracy, Scientific significance in photographs, Previsualization of significant features, Composition), Ecologically Sound Field Photography, Climatic Problems in Field Photography, etc. are of particular interest.

The overall impression is of a book which is not only well written but also well printed. The attached handy pamphlet summarizing the Field-Use Data, numerous illustrations and especially more than 70 perfectly reproduced photographs of the author are additional assets of this publication.

The volume will certainly be welcomed and deservedly appreciated even by scientific workers.

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