

Guttation

Guttation is the phenomenon of bleeding or oozing of exudates or fluids from plant organs through special structures called hydathodes or sometimes ‘water stomata’ or ‘water pores’, located on the tip, periphery, and surfaces of leaves. This text is an up-to-date review of the knowledge in the field and it discusses the principles, mechanisms, regulation, and applications of guttation. The book covers genetic, environmental, and edaphic factors that control and regulate the phenomenon of guttation. It comprehensively discusses the impact of guttation on important aspects including soil–plant–animal–environment systems, soil fertility and soil productivity, plant water balance, plant physiological research, ecosystem maintenance, and hydathode retrieval of water and solute. A separate chapter covers the applications of guttation in the production of recombinant proteins for commercial use, seed protein, alkaloids, pharmaceutical drugs, resins, gums, and rubber.

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Guttation

Fundamentals and Applications

Sanjay Singh



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48702-3 — Guttation
Sanjay Singh
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi–110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108487023

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First published 2020

Printed in India

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Singh, Sanjay (Associate professor of plant sciences), author.

Title: Guttation : fundamentals and applications / Sanjay Singh.

Description: First. | New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2020. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019058596 (print) | LCCN 2019058597 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108487023 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108487023 (pdf)

Subjects: LCSH: Plants, Motion of fluids in. | Stomata. | Xylem. | Plant exudates.

Classification: LCC QK871 .S47 2020 (print) | LCC QK871 (ebook) | DDC 582.1--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019058596>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019058597>

ISBN 978-1-108-48702-3 Hardback

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*To the loving memory of my mother, Mrs Sampatti Devi,
who left for her heavenly abode on November 30, 2017 (1950–2017),
who has been a rock of stability throughout my life, and whose
loving spirit sustains me still. May her soul rest in peace.*

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	xiii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xv
<i>Foreword</i>	xvii
<i>Preface</i>	xix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xxiii
1. Phenomenon of Guttation and Its Machinery	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Definition of guttation	2
1.3 Biographical sketch of Abraham Munting (1626–1683)—discoverer of guttation	2
1.4 Phenomena resembling guttation	4
1.4.1 Dew	4
1.4.2 Bleeding or oozing	4
1.4.3 Other plant secretions	4
1.5 Taxonomic distribution of guttation	5
1.5.1 Angiosperms and gymnosperms	5
1.5.2 Pteridophytes	7
1.5.3 Algae and fungi	7
1.6 Gateway of guttation: hydathodes as exit pores	8
1.6.1 Structural biology of hydathodes	8
1.6.1.1 Morphological and anatomical aspects	9
1.6.1.2 Ultrastructural and histological aspects	14
1.6.2 Induction of hydathodes by auxin	16
1.6.3 Genetic aspects of hydathodes	17

2.	Principles of Guttation and Its Quantification	19
2.1	Introduction	19
2.2	Natural guttation	19
2.3	Periodicity of guttation and bleeding	21
2.4	Induced guttation	21
2.4.1	Induction of guttation in intact plant without application of pneumatic pressure	22
2.4.2	Induction of guttation in intact plant by applying pneumatic pressure	22
2.4.3	Induction of guttation in intact plant in a plastic enclosure	22
2.4.4	Induction of guttation in intact plant inside bell jar	23
2.4.5	Induction of guttation in excised plant	24
2.5	Measurement of guttation	24
2.5.1	Qualitative assessment	25
2.5.1.1	Image analysis of guttation droplets	25
2.5.1.2	Measurement of shape of guttation droplets	25
2.5.1.3	Measurement of size of guttation droplets	25
2.5.2	Quantitative measurement	25
2.5.2.1	Measurement of guttation through mass collection of leaf drippings	26
2.5.2.2	Pedersen technique for measuring guttation	26
2.5.2.3	Komarnytsky technique for measuring guttation	26
2.5.2.4	Wagner technique for guttation measurement	26
2.5.2.5	Singh technique for measurement of guttation	27
2.6	Guttation intensity	28
3.	Mechanism of Guttation	30
3.1	Introduction	30
3.2	Mode of guttation	30
3.3	Mechanism of guttation	31
3.3.1	Ascent of sap in plants: a key to exudation	31
3.3.1.1	Theories of ascent of sap	31
3.3.1.2	Magnitude of root pressure and exudation	33
3.3.1.3	Pressure in the shoot and leaf causing bleeding and guttation	35
3.3.2	Mechanism of root pressure	35
3.3.2.1	Osmometer model of root pressure	36
3.3.2.2	Metabolic model of root pressure	38
3.4	Integrated view of sap movement and guttation	43
3.4.1	Water forced upward-like mechanism of ascent of sap and guttation	45
3.4.2	Compensating pressure theory and guttation	46
3.4.3	Plant hearts theory of ascent of sap and guttation	46
3.4.4	Chemico-mechanosensory signal and guttation	46
3.4.5	Light signal and guttation	47
3.4.6	Chemical communication between opposite plant poles and guttation	47
3.4.7	Molecular aspect of guttation: role of contractile proteins and AQPs	49
3.4.8	Energy coupling in water and solute transfer during root pressure development resulting in guttation	51
3.4.9	Sum of the mechanism at a glance	54
3.4.10	The unknowns—a look at the future	54

4.	Regulation of Guttation	55
4.1	Introduction	55
4.2	Internal factors	55
4.2.1	Genetic factors	55
4.2.1.1	Species variability	55
4.2.1.2	Genotypic variability	58
4.2.1.3	Phenological variability	59
4.2.1.4	Hormonal variability	61
4.2.1.5	Enzymatic variability	61
4.3	External factors	62
4.3.1	Environmental factors	62
4.3.1.1	Mechanical stimuli	62
4.3.1.2	Atmospheric temperature	62
4.3.1.3	Light	63
4.3.1.4	Atmospheric humidity	65
4.3.1.5	Wind	65
4.3.2	Edaphic factors	66
4.3.2.1	Soil and root temperature	66
4.3.2.2	Soil moisture	67
4.3.2.3	Soil nutrients	68
4.3.2.4	Soil aeration	69
4.3.2.5	Soil mycorrhizae	70
4.3.2.6	Soil salinity and pollutant	70
5.	Chemistry of Guttation	71
5.1	Introduction	71
5.2	Organic constituents of guttation fluids	72
5.2.1	Proteins and enzymes	73
5.2.1.1	Protein profile: new proteins	73
5.2.2	Nucleobases and RNAs	80
5.2.3	Amino acids and amides	81
5.2.4	Carbohydrates	81
5.2.5	Lipids, lipoides, alkaloids, glucosides, and toxins	81
5.2.6	Pesticide residues	82
5.3	Inorganic constituents of guttation fluids: cations, anions, and salts	83
5.3.1	Silica	85
5.3.2	Boron	85
5.3.3	Nickel, cobalt, manganese, zinc, and magnesium	85
5.3.4	Calcium	86
5.3.5	Arsenic	87
5.3.6	Aluminum	87
5.4	Hormones	87
5.4.1	Auxins	88
5.4.2	Abscisic acid and ethylene	89
5.4.3	Cytokinins	90
5.4.4	Gibberellins	91
5.5	Vitamins	92

6.	Plant Microbiology and Phytopathology of Guttation	93
6.1	Introduction	93
6.2	Guttation-induced mode of plant injury	94
6.2.1	Guttation-induced non-pathogenic abnormalities in plants	94
6.2.1.1	Non-pathogenic injury caused by chlorotic and necrotic lesions	94
6.2.1.2	Non-pathogenic injury caused by pesticide residues of guttation fluids	95
6.2.1.3	Non-pathogenic injury caused by loss of nutrients through guttation from leaves	95
6.2.2	Guttation-induced pathogenic abnormalities in plants	96
6.2.2.1	Salt incrust formation on leaf portions and pathogen infection	96
6.2.2.2	Pathogenicity and its link with parasitic diseases	97
6.3	Natural defense mechanisms induced by guttation and implications for phytopathology	102
6.3.1	Plant defense achieved through preformed chemicals	102
6.3.2	Plant defense achieved through infection-induced chemicals	102
6.3.3	Plant defense achieved by infection-induced physical factors	102
6.3.4	Guttation as a device for enhancing natural disease resistance in crop plants	102
6.3.5	Guttation as a device for producing natural anti-pathogenic peptides by plants	104
6.3.6	Guttation as a device for fungal taxonomy for developing disease-resistant plants	105
7.	Significance of Guttation in Soil–Plant–Animal–Environment Systems	106
7.1	Introduction	106
7.2	Soil-related implications of guttation	107
7.2.1	Impact of guttation on soil fertility and soil productivity	107
7.2.2	Impact of guttation on soil-moisture build-up	108
7.2.3	Role of guttation in phytoremediation of wasteland	108
7.3	Plant-related implications of guttation	109
7.3.1	Guttation as an indicator of root activity	109
7.3.2	Role of guttation in the maintenance of plant water balance	109
7.3.3	Guttation as a noninvasive assessment test for nutritional status of plants	110
7.3.4	Guttation as a new noninvasive screening tool for salt tolerance in crop plants	111
7.3.5	Guttation as a noninvasive assessment test for pesticide residues in plants	112
7.3.6	Role of guttation in plant growth, biomass build-up, and economic yield	112
7.3.7	Role of guttation in disease resistance of plants	113
7.3.8	Role of guttation in fungal classification	115
7.3.9	Role of guttation in plant injury	116
7.4	Benefits of guttation for animal systems	116
7.4.1	Significance of guttation for herbivores and insect-pest management	116
7.4.2	Significance of guttation for domestic animals and rangeland management	117
7.5	Benefits of guttation for environment systems	117
7.5.1	Role of guttation in ecological perspectives and ecosystem maintenance	117
7.5.2	Role of guttation in evolutionary perspectives	119
7.6	Implications of guttation in plant physiological research	119
7.6.1	Use of guttation as a research tool for hydathodal retrieval of water and solute	120
7.6.2	Use of guttation as a tool for studying plant hydraulic and nutritional traits	120
7.6.3	Use of guttation as a tool for investigating the physiology of host–parasite relationship	120

	<i>Contents</i>	xi
7.6.4	Use of guttation as a tool for studying nutrient loss from leaves	121
7.6.5	Use of guttation as a tool for investigating the excretion mechanism of toxic elements, waste products, and other organic compounds	122
7.6.6	Use of guttation as a tool for unravelling the mechanism of pesticide transport and their fate in plants	122
7.6.7	Use of guttation as a noninvasive assessment tool for chemical health of plants	122
7.6.8	Use of guttation as a new tool for understanding salt tolerance in plants	123
7.6.9	Use of guttation for field screening of germplasm and varieties of crop plants for yield enhancement	123
8.	Significance of Guttation, Associated Structures, and Root Secretion in the Production of Pharmaceuticals and Other Commercial Products	125
8.1	Introduction	125
8.2	Pharmaceutical implications	126
8.2.1	Guttation and production of drugs, human growth factors, hormones, toxins, alkaloids, etc., by transgenic plants	128
8.2.2	Rhizosecretion and production of drugs, human growth factors, hormones, toxins, alkaloids, etc., by transgenic plants	129
8.3	Industrial and commercial implications	132
8.3.1	Production of recombinant proteins at a commercial scale	132
8.3.2	Production of quality seed protein and human nutrition	134
8.3.3	Production of quality cotton and other cotton-like fibers	135
8.3.4	Production of medicinals, spice principals, cosmeceuticals, resins, gums, rubber, etc.	136
8.4	Progress and prospect of designing plants for future: plant bioreactor technology, gene mining, and molecular farming of guttation-, rhizosecretion-, and bleeding-efficient plants	136
8.4.1	Molecular farming	136
8.4.2	Trichome modification and metabolism in hydathode	138
8.4.3	Molecular cloning	142
8.4.4	ABA biosynthesis as a factor for increased guttation	143
9.	General Conclusions and Future Perspectives	144
	<i>Appendices</i>	148
	<i>Bibliography</i>	159
	<i>Index</i>	185

Figures

1.1	Guttation in the form of droplets in different plant species.	6
1.2	A striking example of ‘dewatering’ process, i.e. guttation having a number of polypores exuding droplets of water during development of fungus <i>Polyporus squamosus</i> .	8
1.3	External and internal features of the laminar hydathodes in <i>Ficus formosana</i> Maxim and <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (L.) Maxim.	10
1.4	Magnification of a hydathode of <i>Ficus formosana</i> Maxim.	12
1.5	Ultrastructures of laminar hydathodes in <i>Ficus formosana</i> Maxim.	15
1.6	Early stages of hydathode differentiation in leaf primordia of <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> (L.) Heynh., showing <i>DR5::GUS</i> gene expression in transformed plants, marking by the blue colour GUS staining the sites of high concentrations of the auxin hormone.	17
2.1	The root of a four-week-old maize plant was placed in a root-pressure chamber so that the xylem pressure in the leaves could be changed to cause guttation by altering the pneumatic pressure in the root chamber.	23
2.2	White pine shoot showing guttation with a pressure of 100 kPa applied to the cut stem.	24
2.3	The relationship, for six rice cultivars, between the rate of guttation during pre-heading stage and their panicle weights (the yields-sink potential).	27
3.1	Morphology and anatomy of root systems and water and solute collection and transport.	34
3.2(a)	Hypothetical interplay of membrane transporters in the plasma membrane of xylem parenchyma cells for water secretion.	41
3.2(b)	Alternative model for water secretion that makes use of different water ion coupling ratios in outward- and inward-rectifying K^+ channels.	42
3.3	Photographs show the arrangement for investigating the effect of applied pneumatic pressure on water transport in intact rice plant.	45

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 3.4 | Singh model of guttation, proposed to account for the mechanism of guttation. | 53 |
| 4.1 | The rate of guttation as affected by plant growth stages of hybrid rice (cv. NDRH-2). | 59 |
| 4.2 | Effect of wind velocity on the rate of guttation over a period of 30 min at tillering stage in hybrid rice (cv. NDRH-2). | 65 |
| 4.3 | Effect of water stress on the rate of guttation over a period of 20 min at anthesis stage in hybrid rice (cv. NDRH-2). | 68 |
| 5.1 | Guttation fluid containing a number of organic and inorganic compounds including metabolites, enzymes, hormones, vitamins, salts, ions, nutrients, pathogens, etc., impacting plant behaviour. | 72 |

Tables

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 4.1 | Estimates of flow velocities inside the xylem vessels, pressure gradients, root pressure, and hydraulic conductance in <i>S. emersum</i> and <i>L. dortmanna</i> . Median values and ranges in parentheses are shown apart from the mean guttation rate. | 57 |
| 4.2 | Variations in guttation as revealed by different intact leaf portions of rice leaf at anthesis during 30 min (cv. NDRH-2). | 60 |
| 5.1 | Organic and inorganic constituents commonly found in guttation fluids of different plant species. | 74 |
| 8.1 | Important pharmaceutical proteins that have been produced in plants. | 131 |
| 8.2 | Plant-based vaccines, antibodies, and therapeutic proteins in clinical development or in the market. | 133 |
| 8.3 | Selected transgenic and mutant lines with effects on N-transport, primary N-assimilating genes, and secondary N-metabolism. | 139 |

Foreword

Guttation is a prominent example of natural secretion, containing organic and inorganic solutes, by plant leaves. The oldest references related to guttation in this volume are the studies of de Saussure (1804) followed by the studies of Duchartre (1859) and Unger (1861) on the secretions of calcareous matters and other compounds and salts of leaves. The author of the book, Sanjay Singh, from the windows of his parents' house saw guttation with its myriad brilliant drops glistening on the tips of leaves of rice plants in the early morning sunshine. He fell in love with guttation in his childhood. He followed it up throughout his professional academic life as a teacher, a researcher, and an author of a number of review articles. The present book is born out of this love.

The book is unique because until now no such treatise on guttation existed. It takes the important phenomenon of guttation out of unjustified relative negligence. The book is a comprehensive source of references on guttation with a remarkable completeness in coverage of the literature. Beyond that, the author provides far-reaching excursions into the background of how guttation and related phenomena such as root exudation are embedded in general in the various fascinating features of plant life including water relations and transport, solute transport, regulation in response to external and internal signals, and ecology. From this, it unfolds guttation as innovative emergence in the true sense of the term. Doing this, the author with over 600 references covers an immense breadth of the literature going back to the beginning of the 19th century and up to the most recent works on implications of molecular biology. Through this monumental work, the author has created a history on guttation research, which forays into many outlooks on further work and progress to be anticipated.

With techniques of sampling and quantification of guttation, inorganic and organic chemistry of guttation, biotic interactions with viruses, bacteria, fungi, and animals, and with pharmaceutical implications, the various chapters of the book, which can be taken as self-contained entities, evidently address a very broad audience interested in plant biology, ecology, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, pharmacology, and medicine. Thus, the book is worth being kept on personal bookshelves by students, teachers, and researchers and being acquired by private and government institutions interested

in policy advice, libraries of colleges, and universities for use in teaching and research. Repeatedly, in the book, the author's sincere concern shines up striving to promote the understanding of guttation for serving human advantage in innovative supply and sustainable management of resources.

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Preface

The childhood perception of multiple observations of a visible plant event turning into an academic pursuit has been a miraculous twist in my life, which made all the difference between what I am today and what I might have been in the past. The early morning sunlight reflected by diamond-like water drops oozing profusely from rice plants growing all around my house, officially provided to my father, Professor Tarak Nath Singh, by Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology Crop Research Centre, Faizabad in India where I was born, raised, and educated, triggered my mind during school days and aroused curiosity and anxiety regarding this fascinating and intriguing phenomenon of plant oozing, that is, guttation. Driven by the desire to understand guttation, I had then decided to work on these so-called teardrops of plants to unravel the internals and externals of how, when, why, and what spectra of this phenomenon, setting aside the prospect of choosing medical or engineering streams of education for lucrative job opportunities. The curiosity that was aroused during my school days culminated in investigations on guttation, constituting a chapter on it in my doctoral thesis submitted to Dr R. M. L. Avadh University, Faizabad, UP, India. With this began the exploratory journey on guttation that has seen no end till date, resulting in several invited publications on this subject authored by me. My guttation journey was further boosted by organizing and hosting the 'First World Congress on Guttation and Root Pressure' from December 2, 2015 to December 5, 2015 at the College of Agriculture & Rural Transformation of the University of Gondar, Ethiopia, which was attended by overseas guttation specialists from the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, Israel, and Hong Kong, in addition to those from within Ethiopia. As a matter of fact, guttation has never been in the mainstream of research because of the prevalent belief and opinion that it is of no use to plants and people, which, of course, was proved wrong as you will witness when you harbor through different chapters of this book. It is this wrong notion that actually stirred and teased me so much that I began digging the literature on this topic from the beginning of this millennium and accumulated a good amount of information, old and new, on different aspects of guttation since its discovery in 1672 by Abraham Munting about three-and-a-half-centuries ago (to be exact 348 years) in the Netherlands (erstwhile Holland). However, it is by no means an exhaustive collection, and I may kindly be excused for having inadvertently missed referencing the contributions of

some authors. Subsequent to preliminary topic-wise classification and synthesis, the idea crystallized for writing a book. So, the book, first and only one ever written on guttation, is in your hands.

For the sake of clarity and maintaining the sequence of various aspects of guttation in order as far as possible, this book has been organized into 9 chapters. Chapter 1 deals with the nature of guttation, its machinery, and the biography of its discoverer. Chapter 2 describes the principles of guttation and its quantification, whereas Chapter 3 details the mode and mechanism of guttation, reflecting on the chain of events involved in this process. Chapter 4 reflects on the genetic, environmental, and edaphic factors that regulate the phenomenon of guttation. Going further, Chapter 5 gives readers a glimpse of its chemistry—both organic and inorganic aspects. Chapter 6, not behind its predecessor chapters in substance and material, goes on to presenting pathological aspects, pathogenic and non-pathogenic, including phycology, mycology, bacteriology, and virology of guttation. Matters of most significant interest to readers and scholars that now stand to dispute and set aside the previous negative belief and opinion about guttation have been highlighted in Chapter 7, which deals with its impact on soil–plant–animal–environment systems including biomass formation, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, soil, water, animal, ecosystem balance, etc. Chapter 8 sheds light on the latest discovery of secretion of biopharmaceuticals, paving the path for cheaper, safer, and faster production of drugs, vaccines, and a number of recombinant proteins by molecular farming for guttation and rhizosecretion, for animal and human well-being under changing environment and society. Finally, Chapter 9 draws integrated conclusions, apart from those indicated at various places in previous chapters as and when required, and underlines the future perspectives, pointing out gaps in our knowledge of guttation, which is expected to ignite the minds of students, teachers, and scholars to take up research into this so far least talked and written-about topic in plant biology with the objective of translating it into a subject to be extensively researched to explore the unresolved issues of guttation and root secretion to the advantage of mankind, as the biology of guttation is connected to our lives in many ways.

Here, I would like to mention that the computer typing of the manuscript, draft after draft, was done by me alone, depriving my daughter Yashvi, son Reyansh, wife Sangita, and my respected mother late Mrs Sampatti Devi of my due love, affection, and care for them, taxing heavily on their social and family life. I highly appreciate their limitless patience during the write-up up to the final submission of the manuscript of the book after its various chapters had been reviewed by learned specialists of the world.

In the end, I hope the materials presented and their arrangement in various chapters will make the book useful, accessible, and interesting to students, research scholars, teachers, and professional researchers. Although the various chapters have been reviewed by a panel of competent specialists, nonetheless, the final responsibility for what you read here remains mine, and you may confidently attribute to me any errors of omission or commission in these pages. To help me produce an even better text in the next edition, please send your comments and suggestions at sanju8Ogon@gmail.com.

Acknowledgments

I wish to acknowledge and place on record the contributions of several people whose cooperation and encouragement made this book possible. I owe my special debt of gratitude to the most senior and learned specialists, including my father Professor T. N. Singh, from whose insights and suggestions I have benefitted greatly and borrowed skills and expertise freely. Among overseas specialists are the services of Professor Roni Aloni, University of Tel Aviv, Israel, for reviewing Chapter 1; Professor J. T. M. Elzenga, Groningen University, the Netherlands, for particularly providing the biography of Abraham Munting as well as reviewing Chapters 2 and 9; Professor Lars H. Wegner, Karlsruhe Institute, Germany, for Chapters 3 and 4; Professor Slavko Komarnytsky, North Carolina State University, USA, for Chapters 5 and 8; Professor Dani Shtienberg, The Volcani Center, Israel, for Chapter 6; Professor Peter Brimblecombe, City University of Hong Kong, for Chapter 7: all of which are gratefully recognized and appreciated. I am heartily indebted to Professor Ulrich Luetge, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany, and Professor Wolfgang Kundt, University of Bonn, Germany, for their invaluable contributions by way of critical comments, constructive suggestions, and technical editing of the entire manuscript of the book. These acts of selfless service by all the leading experts mentioned above as well as those anonymous reviewers appointed by the Cambridge University Press are once again highly appreciated and they are indeed unforgettable.

I am also grateful to those authors and publishers who have very kindly consented and permitted the use of their copyrighted works and materials for inclusion in this book.

I am indeed very thankful to Mr Haile Negash (Head, Department of Plant Science), Dr Desta Firdu (Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), Dr Getachew Mekonen (Postgraduate Coordinator), and other staff of the department. I also express my obligations and extend sincere thanks to Dr Mitiku Woldeesenbet (Vice-President for Research and Community Development Support), Dr Ahmed Mustefa, Vice-President (Academic Affairs), and the most visionary person Dr Faris Delil, President of the Mizan-Tepi University, Ethiopia, for their moral support and encouragement during the writing of this book.

My special recognition, high appreciation, and sincere thanks go to the publisher Cambridge University Press whose consistent hard work and careful editing contributed much to the clarity and timely publication of the book.

Abbreviations

AAO3	Abscisic aldehyde oxidase 3
ABA	Abscisic acid
ADP	Adenosine diphosphate
AQPs	Aquaporins
AtABA2	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> abscisic acid
AtNCEDs	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> 9-cis epoxycarotenoid dioxygenases
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
AtPUP1	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> purine permease 1
BOR1	Boron transporter <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>
Bot1	Boron transporter barley
CK	Cytokinin
CPMCW	Cytoskeleton–plasma membrane–cell wall
CTP	Compensating tissue pressure
DNP	2,4-dinitrophenol
DPIC	Diphenylene iodonium chloride
GSTs	Glandular-secreting types
KCN	Potassium cyanide
MALDI-TOF	Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
NDRH-2	Narendra Deva Rice Hybrid-2
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
PUP	Purine permease
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
SUTs	Sucrose transporters
TSP	Total soluble protein
WT	Wild-type