

(Semester IV)

Paper 9: REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF ANGIOSPERMS

THEORY

Unit 1: Introduction

History (contributions of G.B. Amici, W. Hofmeister, E. Strasburger, S.G. Nawaschin, P. Maheshwari, B.M. Johri, W.A. Jensen, J. Heslop-Harrison) and scope. **(2 lectures)**

Unit 2: Anther

Anther wall: Structure and functions, microsporogenesis, callose deposition and its significance. **(4 lectures)**

Unit 3: Pollen biology

Microgametogenesis; Pollen wall structure, MGU (male germ unit) structure, NPC system; Palynology and scope (a brief account); Pollen wall proteins; Pollen viability, storage and germination; Abnormal features: Pseudomonads, polyads, massulae, pollinia. **(6 lectures)**

Unit 4: Ovule

Structure; Types; Special structures—endothelium, obturator, aril, caruncle and hypostase; Female gametophyte— megasporogenesis (monosporic, bisporic and tetrasporic) and megagametogenesis (details of *Polygonum* type); Organization and ultrastructure of mature embryo sac. **(6 lectures)**

Unit 5: Pollination and fertilization

Pollination types and significance; adaptations; structure of stigma and style; path of pollen tube in pistil; double fertilization. **(6 lectures)**

Unit 6: Self incompatibility

Basic concepts (interspecific, intraspecific, homomorphic, heteromorphic, GSI and SSI); Methods to overcome self- incompatibility: mixed pollination, bud pollination, stub pollination; Intraovarian and *in vitro* pollination; Modification of stigma surface, parasexual hybridization; Cybrids, *in vitro* fertilization. **(6 lectures)**

Unit 7: Endosperm

Types, development, structure and functions. **(4 lectures)**

Unit 8: Embryo

Six types of embryogeny; General pattern of development of dicot and monocot embryo; Suspensor: structure and functions; Embryo-endosperm relationship; Nutrition of embryo; Unusual features; Embryo development in *Paeonia*. **(4 lectures)**

Unit 9: Seed

Structure, importance and dispersal mechanisms **(3 lectures)**

Units 10: Polyembryony and apomixis

Introduction; Classification; Causes and applications. **(5 lectures)**

Unit 11: Germline transformation

Pollen grain and ovules through pollen tube pathway method/ *Agrobacterium*/ electrofusion/ floral dip/biolistic. **(2 lectures)**

PRACTICALS

1. Anther: Wall and its ontogeny; Tapetum (amoeboid and glandular); MMC, spore tetrads, uninucleate, bicelled and dehiscent anther stages through slides/micrographs, male germ unit (MGU) through photographs and schematic representation.
2. Pollen grains: Fresh and acetolyzed showing ornamentation and aperture, pseudomonads, polyads, pollinia (slides/photographs, fresh material), ultrastructure of pollen wall (micrograph); Pollen viability: Tetrazolium test.
3. Pollen germination: Calculation of percentage germination in different media using hanging drop method.
4. Ovule: Types-anatropous, orthotropous, amphitropous/campylotropous, circinotropous, unitegmic, bitegmic; Tenuinucellate and crassinucellate; Special structures: Endothelium, obturator, hypostase, caruncle and aril (permanent slides/specimens/photographs).
5. Female gametophyte through permanent slides/ photographs: Types, ultrastructure of mature egg apparatus.
6. Intra-ovarian pollination; Test tube pollination through photographs.
7. Endosperm: Dissections of developing seeds for endosperm with free-nuclear haustoria.
8. Embryogenesis: Study of development of dicot embryo through permanent slides; dissection of developing seeds for embryos at various developmental stages; Study of suspensor through electron micrographs.

ESSENTIAL READINGS

1. Bhojwani, S.S. and Bhatnagar, S.P. (2011). The Embryology of Angiosperms, Vikas Publishing House. Delhi. 5th edition.
2. Shivanna, K.R. (2003). Pollen Biology and Biotechnology. Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd. Delhi.
3. Raghavan, V. (2000). Developmental Biology of Flowering plants, Springer, Netherlands.
4. Johri, B.M. I (1984). Embryology of Angiosperms, Springer-Verlag, Netherlands.