

Vymazal, J. (ed.): **Wetlands - Nutrients, Metals and Mass Cycling**. - Backhuys Publishers, Leiden 2003. 376 pp., EUR 106.00. ISBN 90-5782-140-0.

The book represents proceedings of the fourth international workshop on nutrient cycling and retention in natural and constructed wetlands, which was held between September 26 and 29, 2001 in Třeboň, Czech Republic. As in the three preceding cases, the workshop brought together scientists studying processes in root compartment of plants growing in natural wetlands and scientists engaged in construction and testing of wastewater treatment systems using wetland plants.

The volume consists of 21 refereed contributions, which were selected from 30 papers presented during the workshop. They are not further divided into chapters or sections. Uptake (or removal) of the most abundant mineral nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) from substrate by roots of wetland plants was, of course, of special interest in many contributions, but efficiency of removal of some other, more harmful compounds (*e.g.*, heavy metals, sulphonates) was also documented by some contributors. To the more specific problems discussed belongs transformation of soluble nitrogen compounds in wetland systems, and emission rates of nitrogen

containing gases from wetlands. Some of the quite valuable papers were devoted to the technical problems connected with construction of wastewater treatment systems using wetland plants, and their comparison with other treatment systems.

In contrast to many other books resulting as proceedings from scientific meetings, all the contributions included in this nicely bound volume represent high-quality standard publications, uniformly formatted into the usual parts (Abstract, Introduction, Material and methods, Discussion, Conclusions and References), and richly accompanied by figures. In addition, a record of discussion to each of the contributions recorded after its presentation at the workshop is attached, as well as the list of participants and subject index.

The book will be undoubtedly a very useful source of up-to-date information for all interested in functioning of natural or artificially constructed wetlands, and also for potential users of this type of vegetation for wastewater treatment.

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