

Foreword

The present issue of *Carbohydrate Research* contains a collection of papers on lectins. When the Editors selected this topic for a special issue to bring to the attention of carbohydrate chemists and biochemists the recent developments in this fast-growing field, they took this opportunity to recognize two eminent scientists in the field of lectins. Both, Professor Toshiaki Osawa and Professor Nathan Sharon, have been associated with The Editorial Board of *Carbohydrate Research* for a long time, the former since 1974, and the latter since its inception in 1965. Both have recently reached, in the same month, the official age of retirement at their respective institution, sixty years for T. Osawa at the University of Tokyo, and sixty-five years for N. Sharon at the Weizmann Institute of Science, but both will continue their very active scientific activities. As the field of lectins is not familiar to some of our readers, the Editors have somewhat enlarged the usual requirements for acceptance and, in addition to a majority of contributions describing original work, our readers will find a contribution of historical interest, several reviews of the field, and a classification that will be very helpful to scientists who intend to use lectins in their work. The Editors are very grateful to Professors I. J. Goldstein and M. Monsigny, as well as to Dr. R. C. Hughes, for their invaluable help in organizing this issue.

The Editors