

Les principaux avantages de cette technique d'électrophorèse sur gels de polyacrylamide en plaques sont donc les suivants: on peut obtenir rapidement et sans appareillage spécial, une image électrophorétique de l'ARN de tout matériel en cours d'étude. La reproductibilité de cette méthode ne nous a pas posé de problèmes particuliers. Enfin, la séparation des diverses familles moléculaires peut être plus fine que par centrifugation ou par chromatographie sur colonne de MAK, en effet, on n'observe pas d'aggrégation des ARN de poids moléculaire élevé pour le matériel végétal⁹. De plus, la séparation peut être plus poussée et ce en utilisant diverses concentrations en acrylamide.

Summary. A method of electrophoresis in polyacrylamide gel slabs for the separation of different classes of RNA is described. A gel mixture of 2.5% acrylamide and 0.5% agarose allows an improved and rapid separation of RNA molecules. Comparison between electrophoresis and centrifugation on a linear density gradient is discussed.

R. JALOUZOT

*Laboratoire de Biologie Cellulaire,
Centre de Biologie et de Biochimie du Développement,
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CONGRESSUS

Switzerland

Third International Congress for Stereology

in Berne 26-31 August 1971

Under the auspices of the International Society for Stereology the meeting shall comprise interdisciplinary sessions on basic stereological methods, their mathematical foundations and their application to various disciplines. Analysis of shape, topological properties, size distribution and number of particles on microscopic sections shall

receive special attention. Further topics include sampling problems and instrumentation, particularly automatic image analysis and data processing. Information and provisional program by: Third International Congress for Stereology, Anatomisches Institut der Universität, Bülhstrasse 26, CH-3000 Bern (Switzerland).

Great Britain

The First Meeting of the European Teratology Society

in Cardiff (Great Britain), 14-16 April 1971

The European Teratology Society began its formal existence on 1 October 1970. It has been founded to stimulate interest in and promote the exchange of ideas and information about the etiology, prevention and treatment of congenital malformations. It is hoped that the Society will include members from different experimental, clinical and epidemiological disciplines and will encourage communication between these disciplines and among teratologists employed in universities, hospitals, government institutes and the pharmaceutical industry.

The first meeting of the Society will be held in the Pre-Clinical Sciences Complex, University College.

Inquiries about membership of the European Teratology Society should be sent to the Acting Secretary, Dr. K. S. Larsson, Laboratory of Teratology, Karolinska sjukhuset, S-10401 Stockholm 60 (Sweden), and inquiries about the Cardiff Meeting to Dr. J. B. Lloyd, Department of Biochemistry, University College, Cardiff (Great Britain).

ACTUALITAS

International Cell Research Organization (ICRO)

1. *Training Courses.* One of the main activities of ICRO is the organization of training courses on topics of high novelty and on modern techniques in cellular and molecular biology: Principles and techniques of tissue and organ culture; Genetics and Physiology of Bacterial viruses; Energy transducing systems on the sub-cellular level; Methods in mammalian cytogenetics; Membrane Biophysics; DNA-RNA Hybridization; Biogenesis of Mitochondria; Embryology and Epigenetics; Interaction between Animal Viruses and host cells, application of computers to experimental work in biology and chemistry; Methods in molecular biology, etc. The courses generally last 3-5 weeks, and include 16-20 young participants (sometimes more). The ICRO courses are fully inter-

national, both the teaching staff and the participants coming from the largest possible number of countries.

2. *The Problem of Developing Countries.* Most of the past ICRO courses have been organizing in European countries - east and west - but the demand from developing countries is increasing steadily. ICRO activities in developing countries may tend to give preference to topics of potential economic usefulness, such as applied microbiology, microbial protein production, fermentation industries, soil microbiology, plant genetics, etc.

Inquiries for more information should be addressed to: Dr. Adam Kepes, International Cell Research Organization, c/o Unesco - AVS, Place de Fontenoy, 75 Paris 7e, France.