

It is not the purpose of this paper to outline the steps in cell study. If one chooses to use the *Nitella* instead of *Anacharis*, all he need do is apply the cell study methods used with the latter specimen to the former. After all, the methods have been tried and have proven to be quite adequate. The substitution of *Nitella* serves simply to provide for single cell study rather than study of the cell as a part of a tissue.

The teacher who chooses to use *Nitella* will, undoubtedly, be interested in the source and culturing of the specimen. The genus is found in soft water streams and thrives in acid lakes (Prescott, 1954). Since the organism is found attached to a substrate, collectors probably will find it to their advantage to begin their search for specimens in local streams rather than lakes. In the streams, the thalli form long flowing arboreal patterns which give the rapids the appearance of a green carpet.

Once specimens have been collected, they are relatively easy to culture. Six months ago, culture dishes containing *Nitella* were placed

on a window sill in one of our laboratories. Upon present examination, it is found that the specimens are still in excellent shape for cell study of the type done in general biology laboratories. The culture medium used was Bristol's solution (Schwab, 1960).

The teacher who chooses to use *Nitella* for cell study will find that the genus is especially suited for this type of study. He will probably find that at least one of the thirty-four species of the genus (Wood, 1948) is easily obtained from his local environment and can be readily cultured in some corner of his classroom. A final advantage of using *Nitella* is that variety will be introduced into the study of the plant cell.

References

- Prescott, G. W., How to know the freshwater algae. Wm. C. Brown Co., Dubuque, Iowa, 1954.
Schwab, Joseph J., Biology teachers' handbook. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1960.
Wood, R. D., "A review of the genus *Nitella* (Characeae) of North America." *Farlowia*. 3:331-398. 1948.

Special Training

Instruction and experience in the expanding uses of radiation and radioactive materials again is being offered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities' Special Training Division during this academic year. The Division's short courses, developed over the last 20 years, will feature training in the research, industrial, medical and specialized applications of radioisotopes. Complete information is available from: Special Training Division, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.

Tune In To Nature

Ruth H. Smiley has produced an illustrated booklet with color and black and white photographs of conservation and nature study through awareness and appreciation. Teachers will find this sensitively authored booklet, *Tune In To Nature*, of value in the field. Copies are available from Ruth H. Smiley, Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, New York 12561 at 75¢ a copy. Special quantity rates are available.

Photosynthesis and Respiration

Free copies of *Technical Bulletin No. 7: Photosynthesis, Respiration, and Plant Type of the Tropical Rice Plant* are available from The International Rice Research Institute, Manila Hotel, Manila, The Philippines. The publication reviews in considerable detail the work of the Institute's plant physiologists during the past several years. It deals principally with the balance between photosynthesis and respiration, the effect of this on dry matter production and yield, and the manner in which plant type influences mutual shading and hence plant efficiency. It will be of interest to all those who seek to understand the physiological requirements of high grain production.

How to Know Troublesome Lawn Weeds

Free copies of *How to Know Troublesome Lawn Weeds* by Dr. Claude E. Phillips are available from the Mailing Room, Agricultural Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, 19711.