

EDITORIAL

Much published research on seeds is directed towards achieving an understanding of the different processes that occur in them, from embryogenesis, the deposition of storage reserves, maturation and other features of the developing seed, to dormancy, germination, reserve utilization, longevity and viability of the mature seed. And all of these facets of seed behaviour are studied in different contexts – ecological, agricultural, horticultural, or simply from a desire to elucidate and explain the complex functions that occur in this critical phase of the plants life history. In recent years, interrelations among the various aspects of seed function have started to become clearer. We are beginning to understand, for example, how various physiological, biochemical and molecular events that occur during seed development and maturation may determine the subsequent longevity, dormancy and germination properties of the mature seed.

Up to now there has been no single forum devoted primarily to these basic aspects of seed science and relevant research is scattered among ten to fifteen major journals. *Seed Science Research* now provides such a forum and aims to become the preferred publication outlet for reviews, original research articles and letters for scientists working in these fields. As far as the scientific development of our subject is concerned this journal starts at a propitious time, when new levels of understanding about seeds are coming from the application of molecular biology and genetics. It is of paramount importance that the molecular approach is integrated with the physiology, biochemistry and ecology and it is intended that *Seed Science Research* will promote this integration.

On behalf of the Editorial Board I welcome you to *Seed Science Research* and invite you to contribute to its pages.

Michael Black