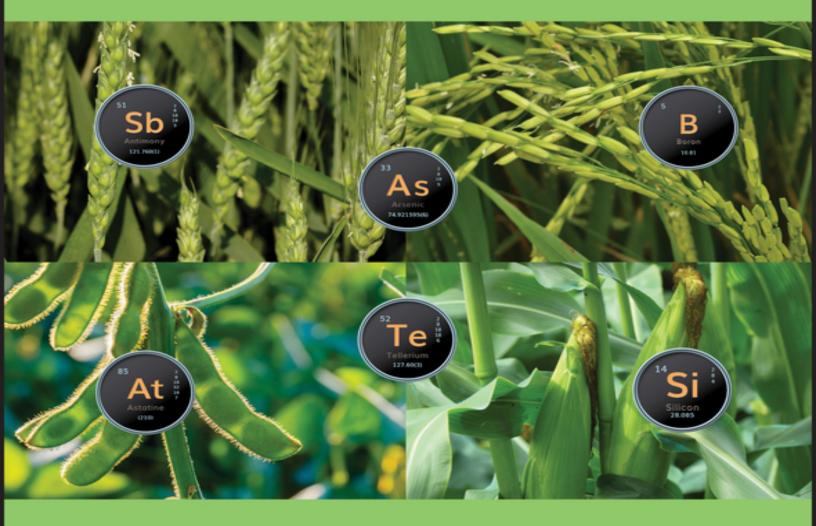
METALLOIDS IN PLANTS Advances and future prospects



EDITED BY RUPESH DESHMUKH DURGESH K. TRIPATHI GEA GUERRIERO



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Metalloids in Plants

Advances and Future Prospects

Edited by

Rupesh Deshmukh

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, Punjab, India

Durgesh K. Tripathi

Amity Institute of Organic Agriculture, Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, Noida, India

Gea Guerriero

Environmental Research and Innovation Department, Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, Esch/Alzette, Luxembourg

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Dedicated to one of the most eminent Agriculture Scientist of India who's work on rice helped to secure food for millions of poor people.

Prof. Tilak Raj Sharma

Executive Director National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali, Punjab, India.

Dr. Rupesh Deshmukh, Dr. Durgesh Kumar Tripathi, Dr. Gea Guerriero

List of Contributors

Muhammad Adrees

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Gaurav Agarwal

Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Georgia, USA

Arif Ali

Department of Biosciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

Shafaqat Ali

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Raghavendra Aminedi

National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, IARI Campus, PUSA, New Delhi, India;

Regional Centre for Biotechnology, NRC Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad, India

Saeed Bagherifam

School of Science and Technology, C023 Riggs Building (Chemistry), University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia

Adriana Basile

Department of Biology, University Federico II, Naples, Italy

Maria Pilar Bernal

Department of Soil and Water Conservation and Organic Waste Management, CEBAS-CSIC, Murcia, Spain

Purnima Bhandari

Sector 36-A, Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women,

Chandigarh, India

Shefali Bhardwaj

Department of Environment Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Amrit Bharti

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Javaid Akhter Bhat

School of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Ramcharan Bhattacharya

National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, IARI Campus, PUSA, New Delhi, India

Aditi Bisht

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Priyanka Borah

Department of Biosciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

Juhi Chaudhary

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Florida, Florida, USA

Amandeep Cheema

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Rafael Clemente

Department of Soil and Water Conservation and Organic Waste Management, CEBAS-CSIC, Murcia, Spain

Arindam Datta

Center for Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences & Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute, India Habitat Center, New Delhi, India

Rupesh Deshmukh

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali,

India

Bhupinder Dhir

School of Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India

Sutapa Dutta

Center for Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences & Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute, India Habitat Center, New Delhi, India

Sergio Esposito

Department of Biology, University Federico II, Naples, Italy

Hassan Etesami

Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, Agriculture & Natural Resources Campus, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Ameer Fawad

Department of Chemistry, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Neera Garg

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Mansour Ghorbanpour

Department of Medicinal Plants, Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Arak University, Arak, Iran

Ume Habiba

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Bum-Soo Hahn

Metabolic Engineering Division, Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Rural Development Administration, Jeonju, Korea

Mehrnaz Hatami

Department of Medicinal Plants, Faculty of Agriculture and

Natural Resources, Arak University, Arak, Iran

S.M. Teresa Hernández-Sotomayor

Unidad de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular de Plantas, CICY, Mérida, Yucatán, México

Milad Heydari

Department of Agronomy and Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Tehran, Karaj, Iran

Afzal Hussain

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Lakita Kashyap

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Gurpreet Kaur

Department of Chemistry and Center of Advanced Studies in Chemistry, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Mahipal Singh Kesawat

Metabolic Engineering Division, Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Rural Development Administration, Jeonju, Korea; Department of Agriculture, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, India

Praveen Khatri

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Dong Kyun Kim

School of Biological Sciences, Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

Murali Krishna Koramutla

National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, IARI Campus, PUSA, New Delhi, India

Gulshan Kumar

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Manu Kumar

Department of Life Sciences, Sogang University, Seoul, Korea

Rajeev Kumar

Department of Environment Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Vajinder Kumar

National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, IARI Campus, PUSA, New Delhi, India

Vanish Kumar

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Behnam Asgari Lajayer

Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran

Simone Landi

Department of Biology, University Federico II, Naples, Italy

Asim Mansha

Department of Chemistry, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Viviana Maresca

Department of Biology, University Federico II, Naples, Italy

Isabel Martínez-Alcalá

Department of Civil Engineering of the Catholic University of San Antonio, UCAM, Murcia, Spain

Nader Khadem Moghadam

Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran

José A. Muñoz-Sánchez

Unidad de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular de Plantas, CICY, Mérida, Yucatán, México

Syed Ali Raza Naqvi

Department of Chemistry, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Manisha Negi

Government PG College, Gopeshwar, Chamoli, Uttarakhand, India

Seyed Ali Ghaffari Nejad

Department of Soil Chemistry, Fertility and Plant Nutrition, Soil and Water Research Institute (SWRI), Karaj, Iran

Valeria Paradisone

Department of Biology, University Federico II, Naples, Italy

Roberto Pech-Kú

Unidad de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular de Plantas, CICY, Mérida, Yucatán, México

Hasthi Ram

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Nitika Rana

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Nasir Rasool

Department of Chemistry, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Ravinder

Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Muhammad Rizwan

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering,

Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Beatriz Rodas-Junco

CONACYT, Facultad de Ingeniería Química, Campus de Ciencias Exactas e Ingeniería, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Periférico Norte, Mérida, Yucatán, México

Byoung Ryong Jeong

Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS), [& Division of Applied Life Science (BK21+ Program), Graduate School], Gyeongsang National University (GNU), Jinju, Korea

Davood Saghafi

Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran

Kiran Saroy

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Asad Ali Shah

Department of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Muhammad Rizwan Shahid

Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Amrita Sharma

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

S.M. Shivaraj

Departement de Phytologie, University Laval, Quebec, QC, Canada

Sandeep Singh

Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Humira Sonah

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Naresh Vasupalli

National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, IARI Campus, PUSA, New Delhi, India

Shabir H. Wani

Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops, Sher-e-Kashmir, University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Khudwani Anantnag, India

Abbu Zaid

Plant Physiology and Biochemistry Section, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

1 Metalloids and Their Role in the Biological System

Mahipal Singh Kesawat^{1,2}, S.M. Shivaraj³, Dong Kyun Kim⁴, Manu Kumar⁵, Bum-Soo Hahn¹, and Rupesh Deshmukh⁶

¹ Metabolic Engineering Division, Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Rural Development Administration, Jeonju, Korea

² Department of Agriculture, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, India

³ Departement de Phytologie, University Laval, Quebec, QC, Canada

⁴ School of Biological Sciences, Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

⁵ Department of Life Sciences, Sogang University, Seoul, Korea

⁶ National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, India

Introduction

Metalloids encompass a group of chemical elements which are found widespread in nature (Bienert et al. 2008). Most of their physical and chemical characteristics are intermediate between metals and nonmetals, hence it is hard to classify them as either metals or nonmetals (Bhattacharjee et al. 2008). Physically, they are glittery, fragile with intermediate electric conductivity similar to metals, and chemically they behave as nonmetals.