

**FAMBO**

**BOTANICAL DICTIONARY**

**FIRST EDITION**

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### PREFACE

This first edition on dictionary of Botany is borne out of the need to provide an additional source of information for students taking advanced courses in the field of Botany and related disciplines in our tertiary institutions. It will also be helpful to students taking introductory courses in Biology.

The text is organized in alphabetical order that is from A-Z. Each alphabet treats and describes the terms that are used in the area of pure and applied botany. The areas covered are anatomy, plant physiology, plant pathology, plant morphology, eco-physiology, palynology, ethnobotany, evolution, genetics, ecology and molecular biology. The definition of each term is clear and informative and where necessary, helpful illustrations with suitable examples were provided.

There is no gainsaying that the book will be useful to anyone studying Biology and Biology related fields. It suffices to say that the present day Botany is a course of study that is gaining the attention of the people in both life and physical sciences. It is hoped that the readers will find the book interesting in terms of meeting their immediate need.

## A

**ABA:** See abscisic acid.

**Abaxial:** the side away from the axis; located on the side facing away from the axis, e.g. the lower surface of a leaf. In structures such as a leaves and petals, the side facing away from the main axis, i.e. the lower surface. In lateral organs such as leaves, abaxial is synonymous with the underside. Compare adaxial. cf. **adaxial**.

**Abiogenesis:** the formation of organic matter without the action of living organisms. The supposed spontaneous generation of living organisms.

**Abiotic:** inanimate, non-living, not of biological nature.

**Abiotic environment:** the nonliving factors of the environment that influence ecological systems. Abiotic factors include climate, chemical pollution, geographical features, etc.

**Abort:** to abandon development of a structure of organ.

**Abscisic acid (ABA):** a plant hormone, that functions chiefly as an inhibitor of growth and cell elongation. Abscisic acid has a variety of effects related to seed dormancy and stress responses: it regulates protein expression in seed development leading to dormancy and is one of the hormones involved in bud dormancy; it regulates stress responses by, for example, closing stomata in times of water shortage and increasing the ability of roots to carry water. It can also promote root growth and inhibit shoot growth. Despite its name it does not directly promote abscission, but only indirectly through increasing ethylene production. Formerly it was known as *abscising II* or *dormin*.

**Abscission** (adj. abscissile): a plant's normal shedding of an organ that is mature or aged, e.g. a ripe fruit or an old leaf; the organized loss of part of a plant, usually a leaf, fruit, or unfertilized flower; the separation of leaves, flowers, and fruits from plants after the formation of an abscission zone at the base of their petioles, peduncles, and pedicels. An *abscission zone* occurs at the base of the organ. Here a separation layer (*abscission layer*) is formed by breakdown or separation of cells and final severance occurs when

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