

# Bioenergy: Potentials and limitations

EPS-Summer School

July 17 to 23, 2014

E D Schulze

MPI Biogeochemie

**I will organize my 2 lectures as following**

**Saturday, July 19:**

**The physiology and ecology of  
photosynthesis and growth**

**Monday, July 21:**

**Land-use and Bioenergy**

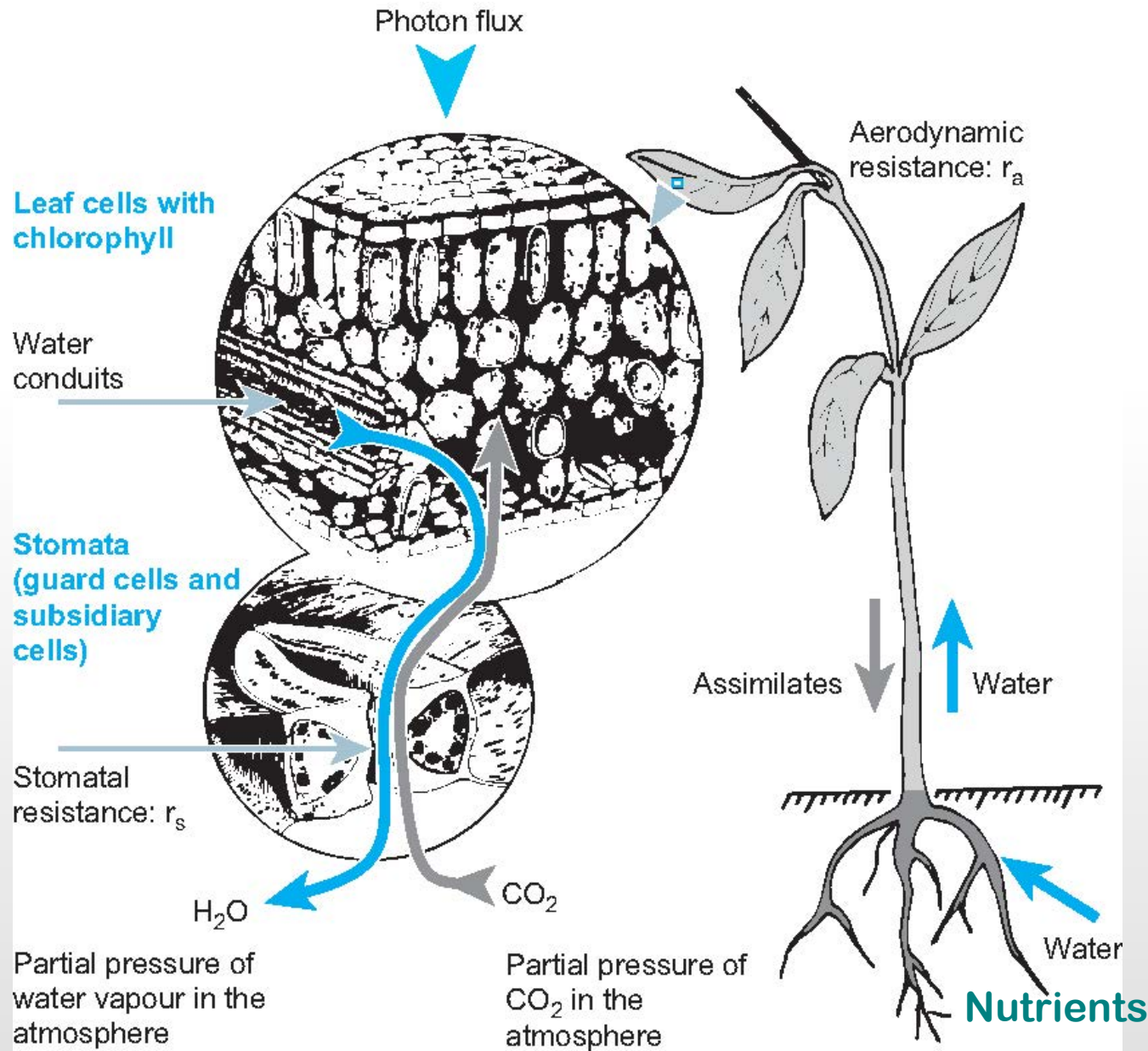
# Physiology and Ecology of photosynthesis and growth

- The functioning of a plant
- Biochemistry of Photosynthesis
- Carbon fixation
- Respiration
- Gas exchange
- Growth and yield

- **The following will contain several “biochemical pathways”**
- **It is not my aim to teach you biochemistry, but you should learn some principles about plant functioning:**
  - **The regeneration of substrates in closed reaction cycles**
  - **The use of chemical energy via redox-systems**
  - **The importance of membranes to separate charges**

- **Literature**
  - **Straßburger: Lehrbuch der Botanik**
  - **Schulze et al: Plant Ecology**
  - **Larcher: Plant Eco-Physiology**
  - **Lambers et al: Plant physiological Ecology**

- **The functioning of a plant**



Flower and fruits

Leaves

Shoot

Root



*Sphagnum squarrosum*



*Agatis australis*



# Why is water use such a problem for plants?

Diffusivity of CO<sub>2</sub> in air:  $0.14 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$

in water:  $0.16 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$

Membrane: no membrane permeable for CO<sub>2</sub> and not for H<sub>2</sub>O: Mol. weight: 44/18

## Plants

CO<sub>2</sub> Gradient air/plant interior: 100 ppm

H<sub>2</sub>O Gradient air/plant interior: 12000 ppm

Water use (incl diffusivity):  $12000 \times 1.6 / 100 = 192 \text{ H}_2\text{O}/\text{CO}_2$

## Animals

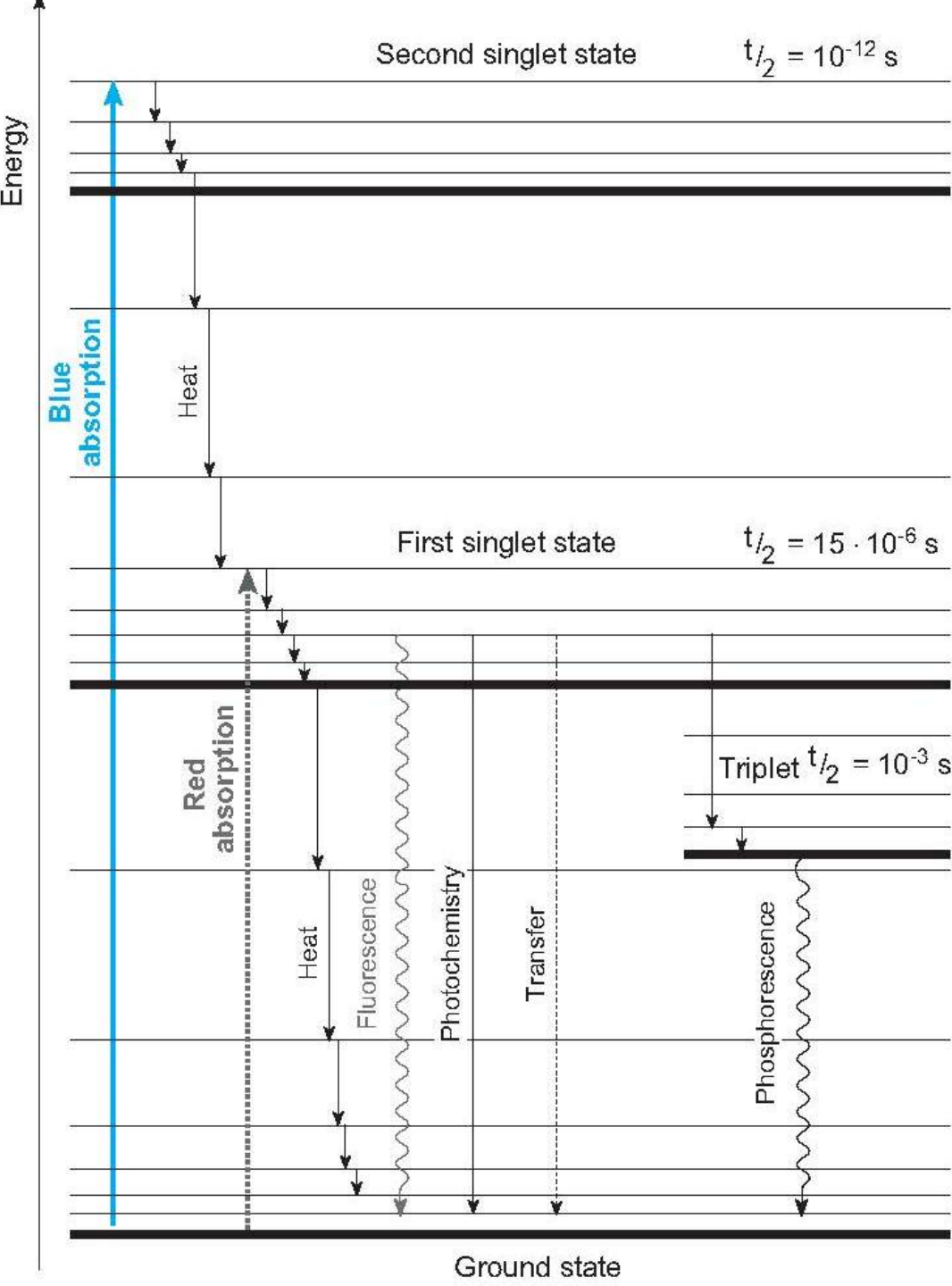
O<sub>2</sub> Gradient air/lung: 50000 ppm

H<sub>2</sub>O Gradient lung/air: 50000 ppm

Water use: 1 H<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>2</sub> (warm blooded)

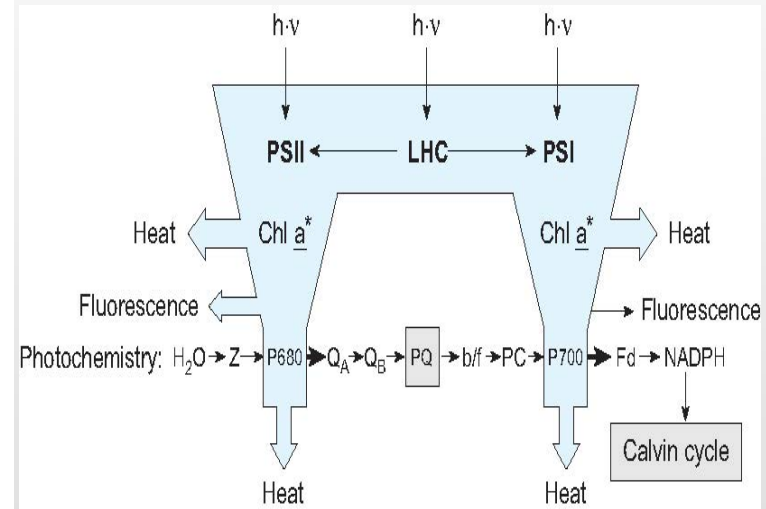
0.2 H<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>2</sub> (cold blooded)

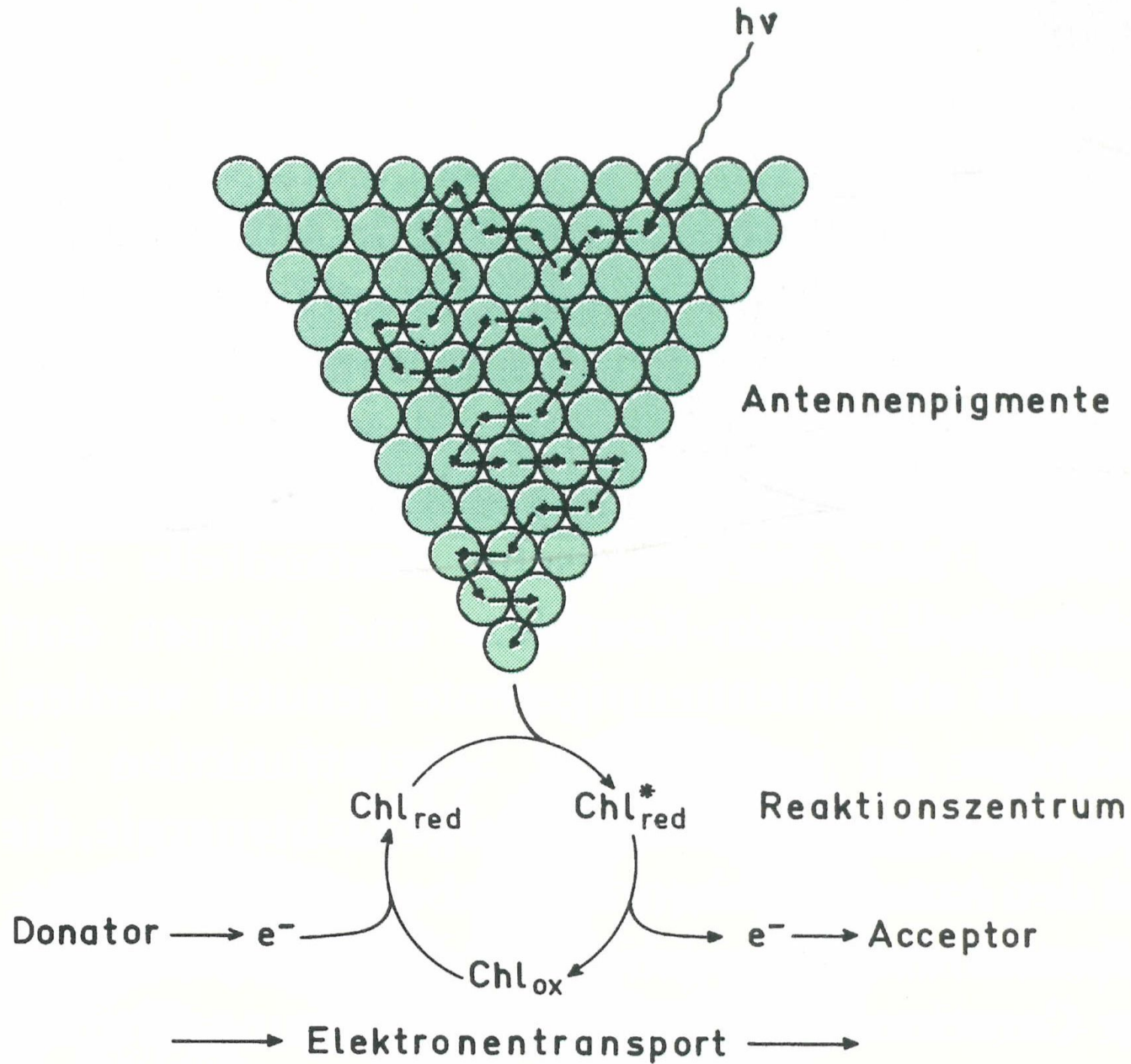
- **Biochemistry of Photosynthesis**

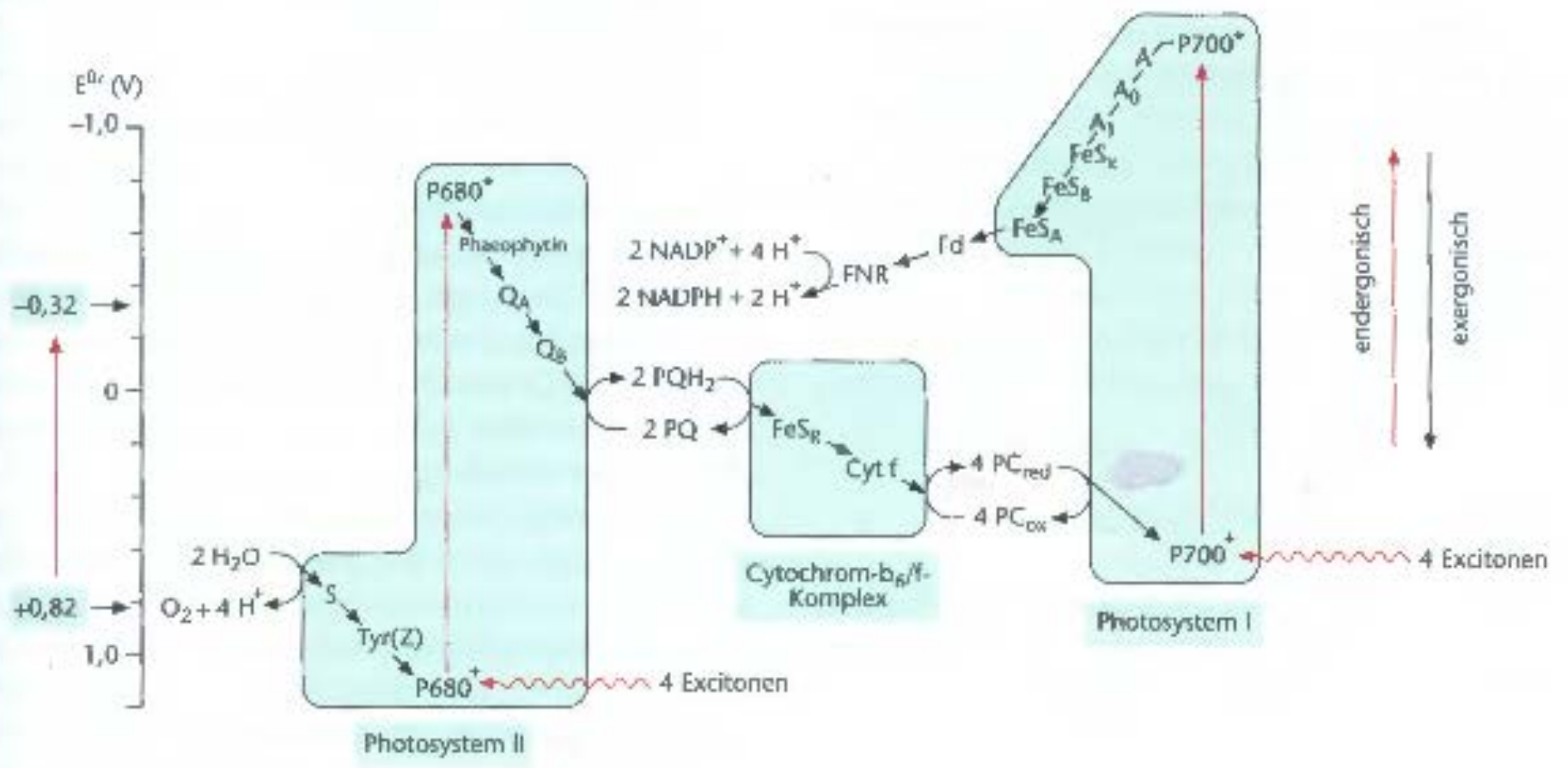


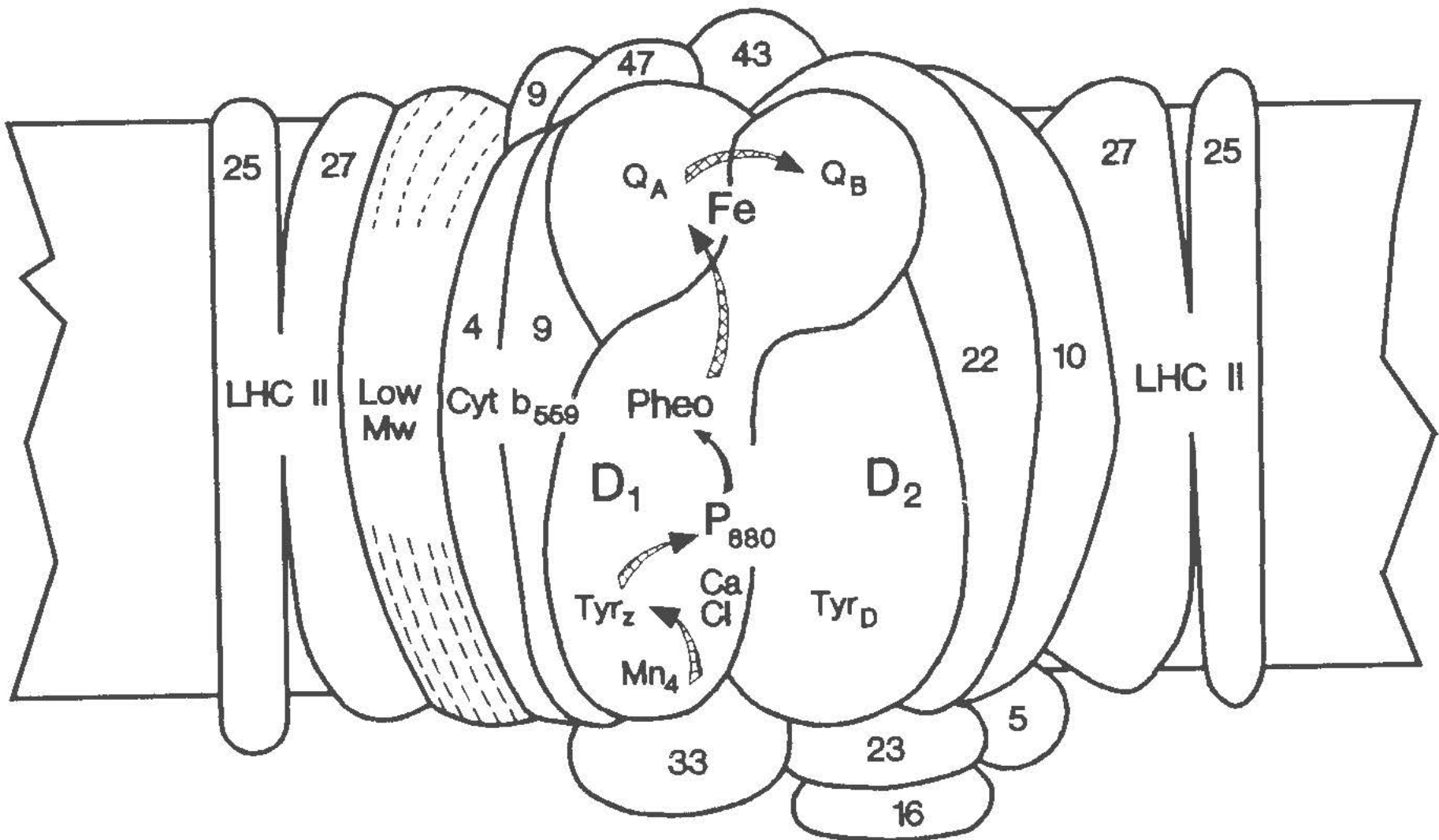
Absorption of Quanta of red and blue light lead to an excitation of 1.8 or 3 eV.

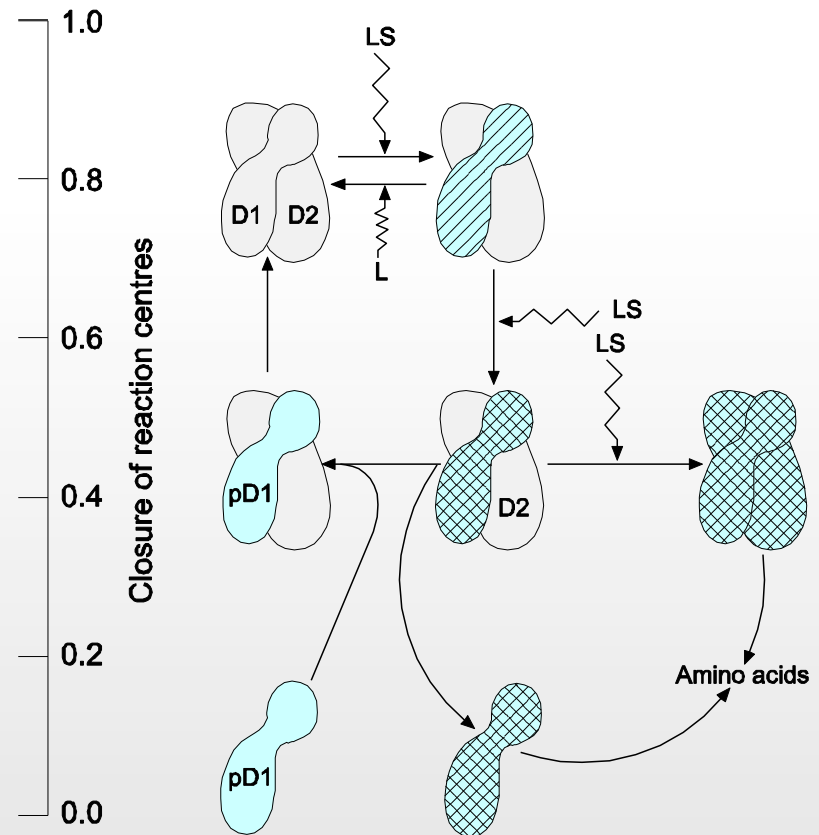
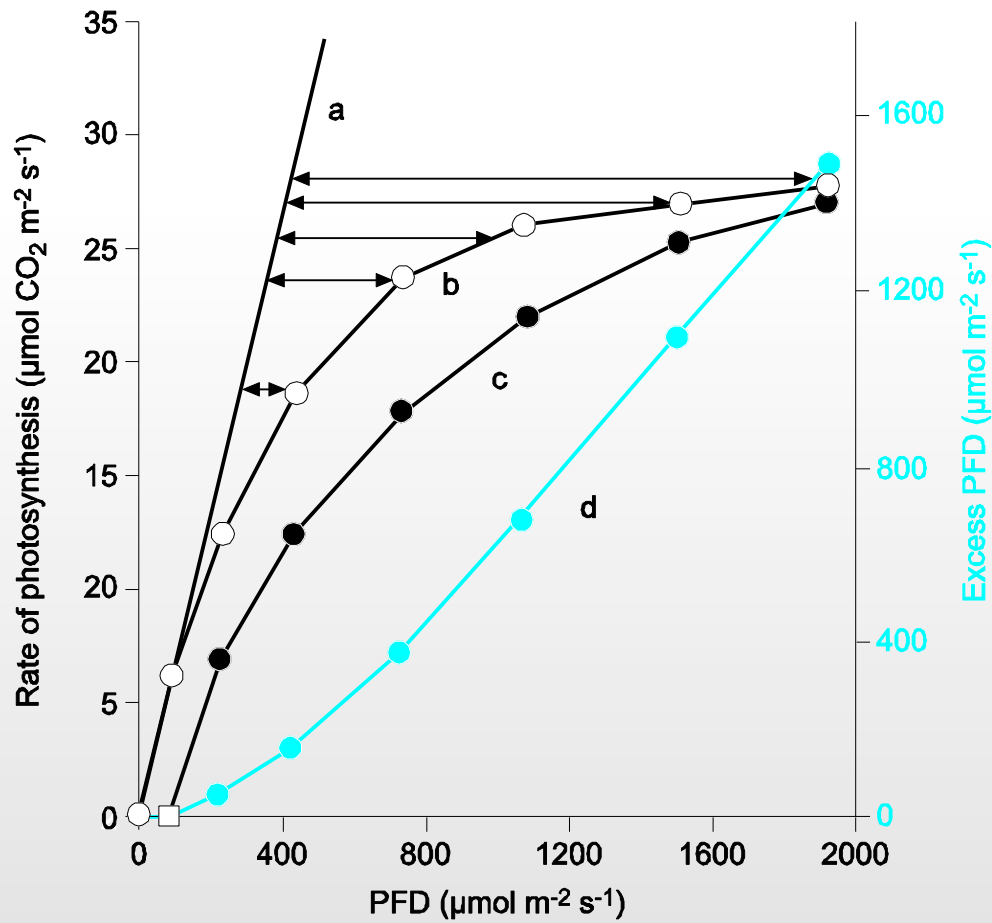
The relaxation of stage S2 is too fast to be used biochemically, only stage S1 can be used for biochemical reactions.

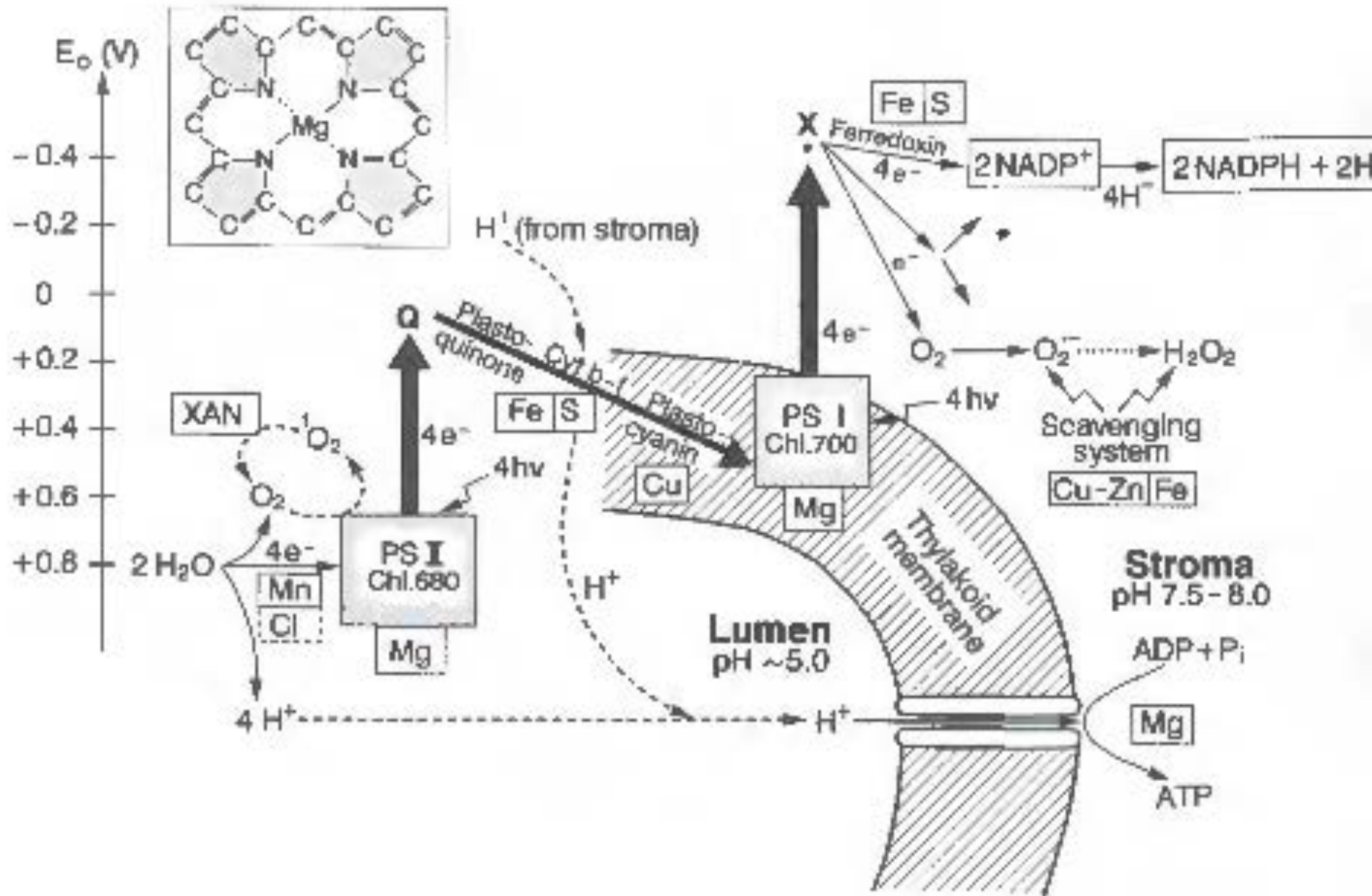




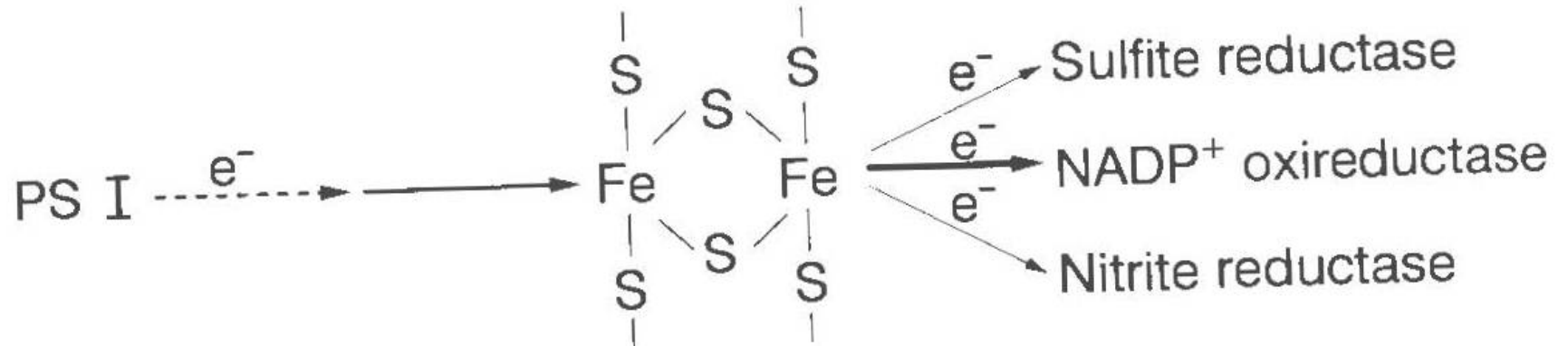




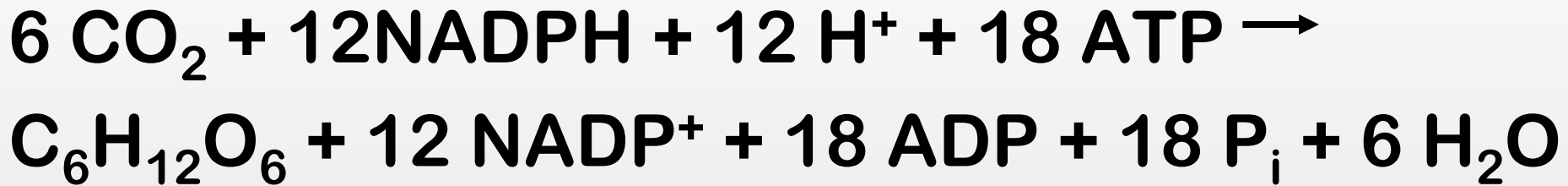


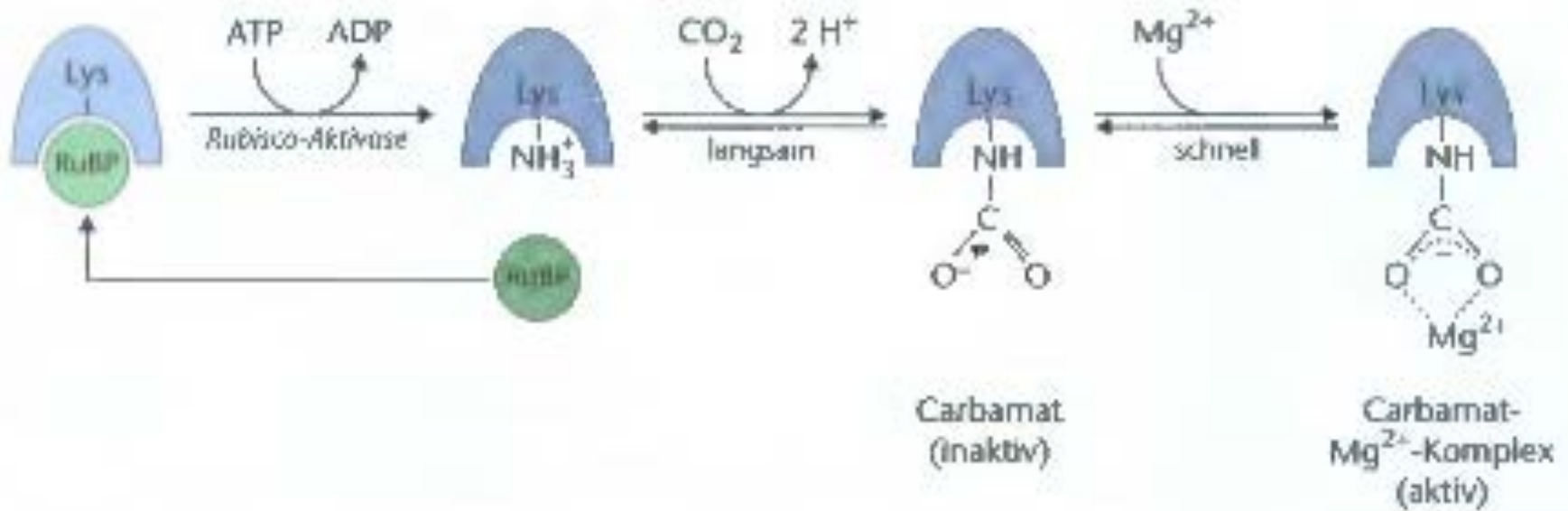


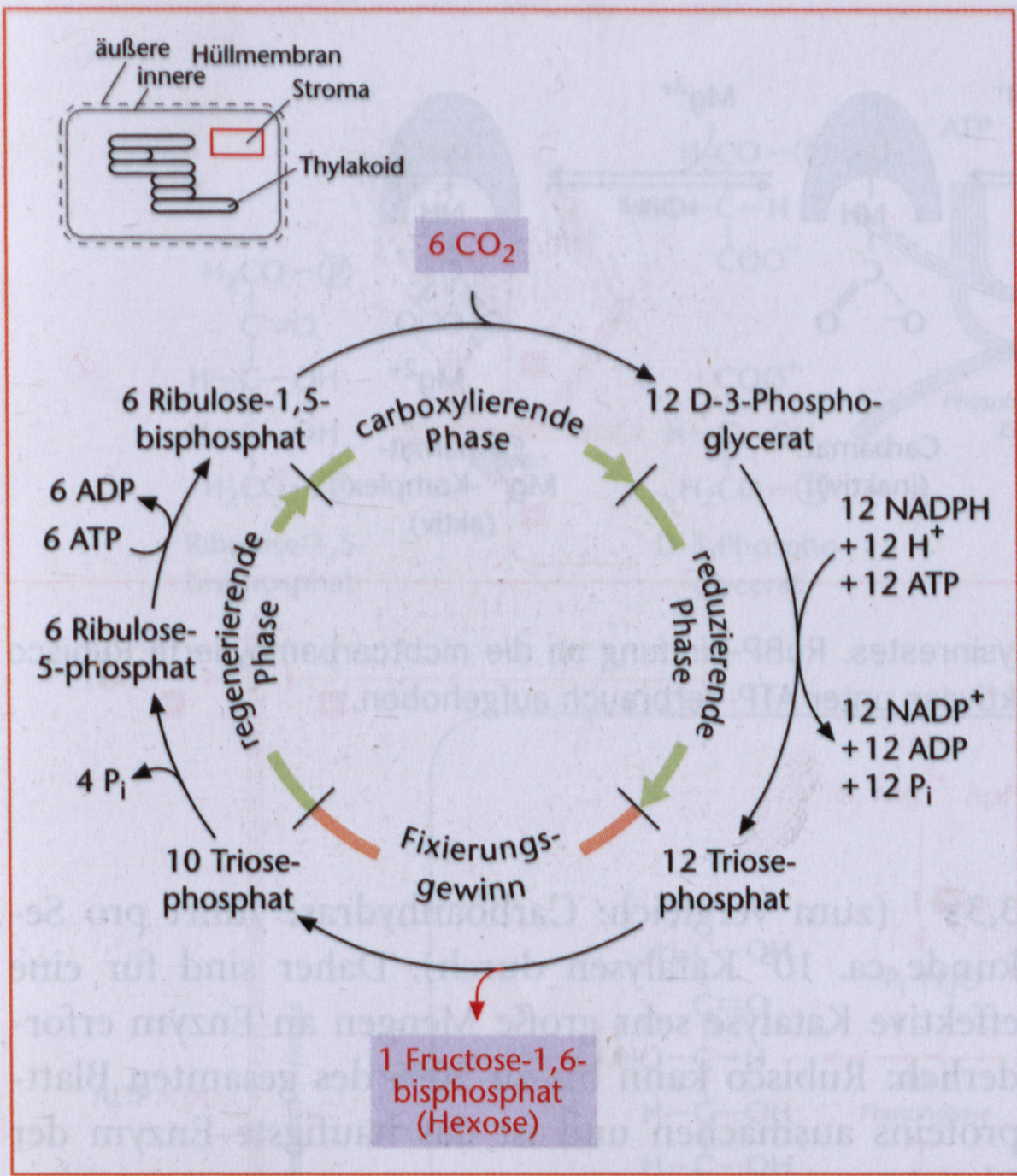


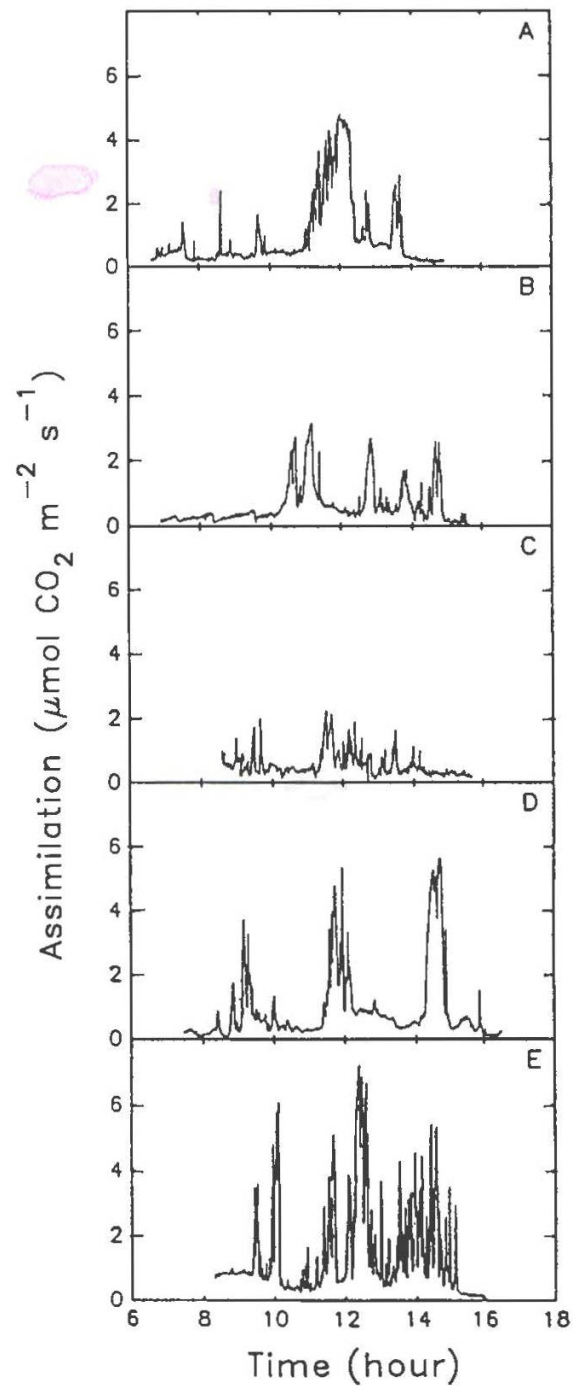
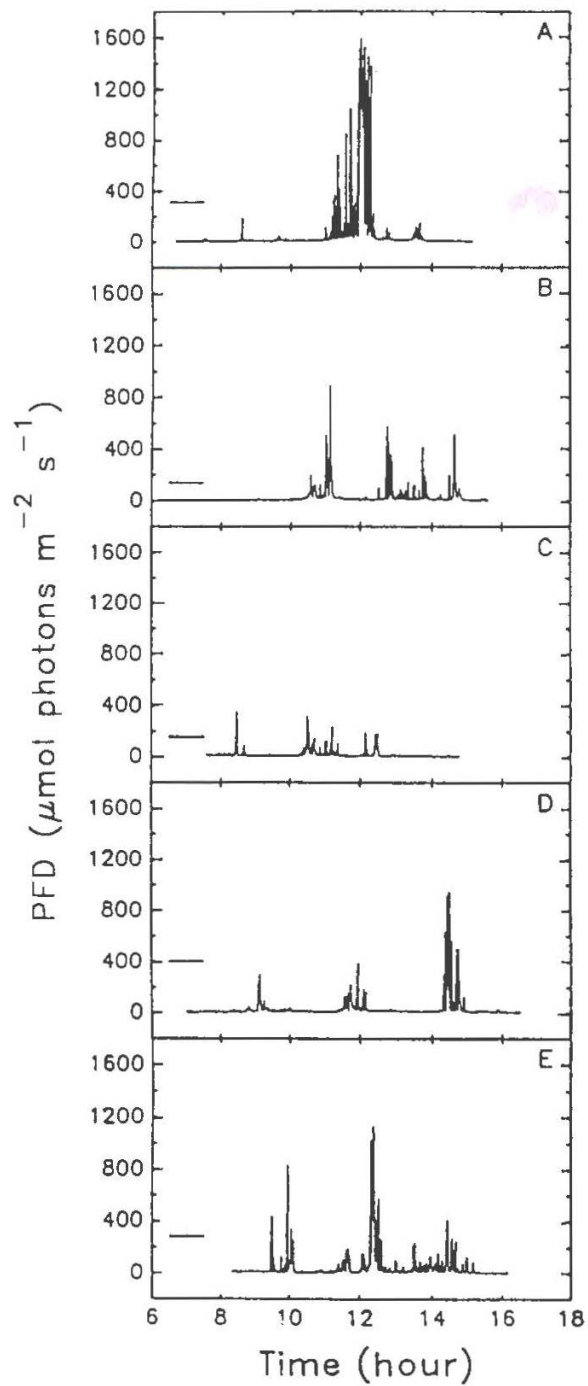


# Carbon Fixation

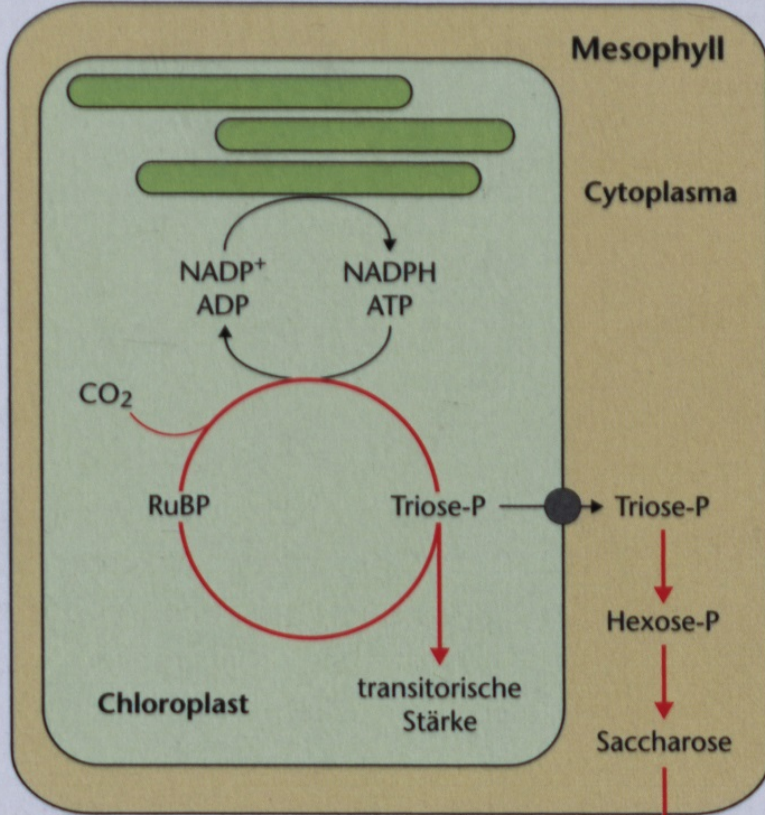




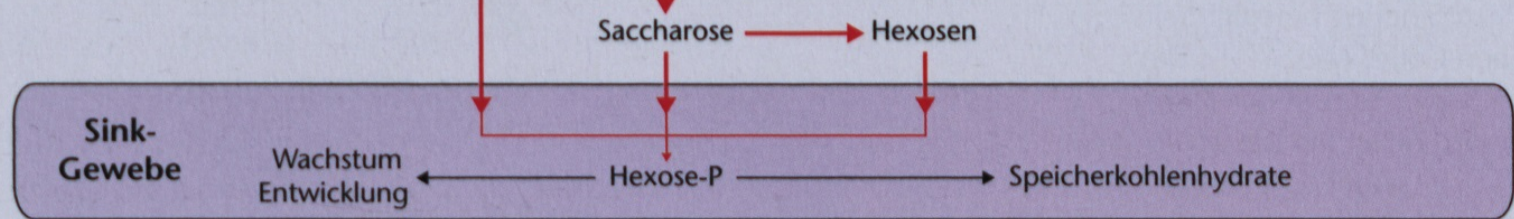
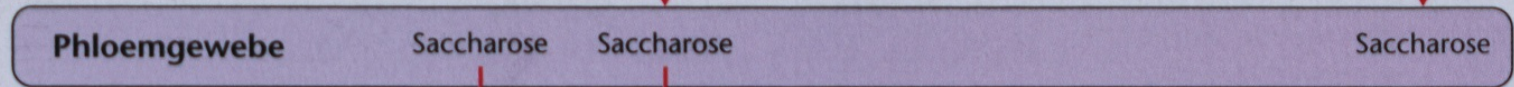
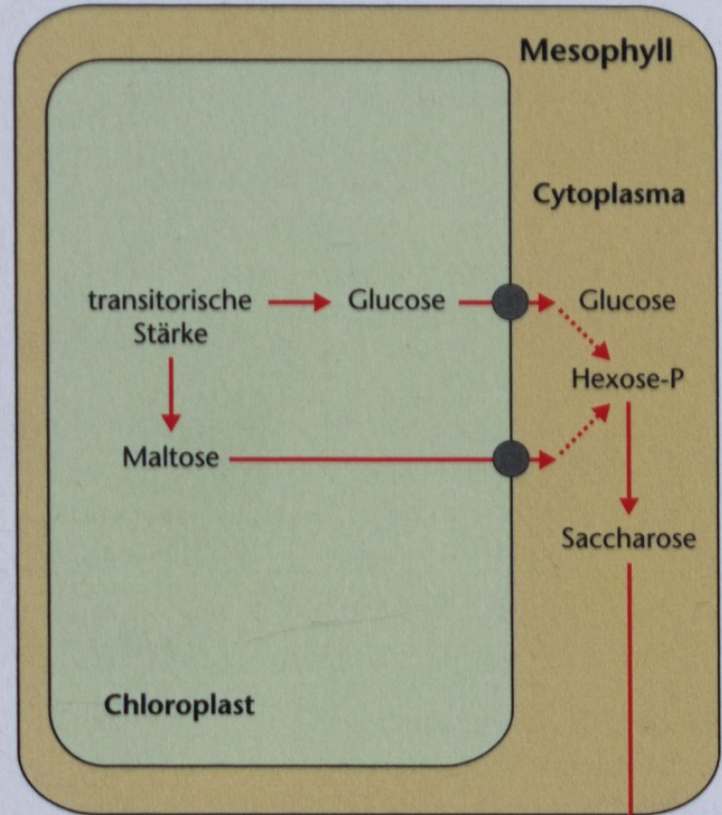




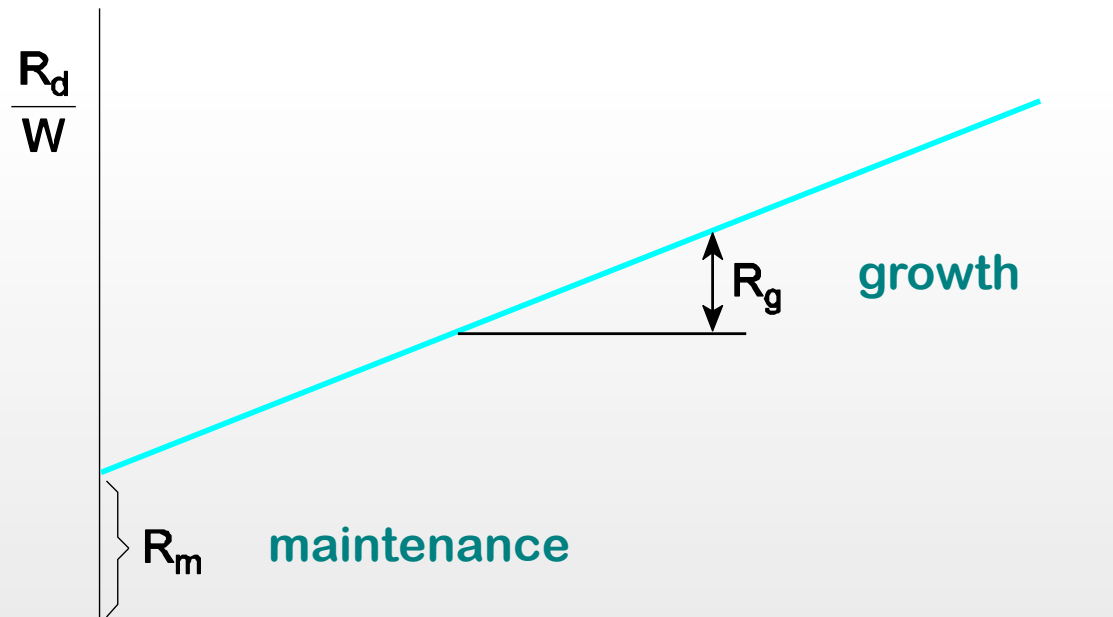
A



B

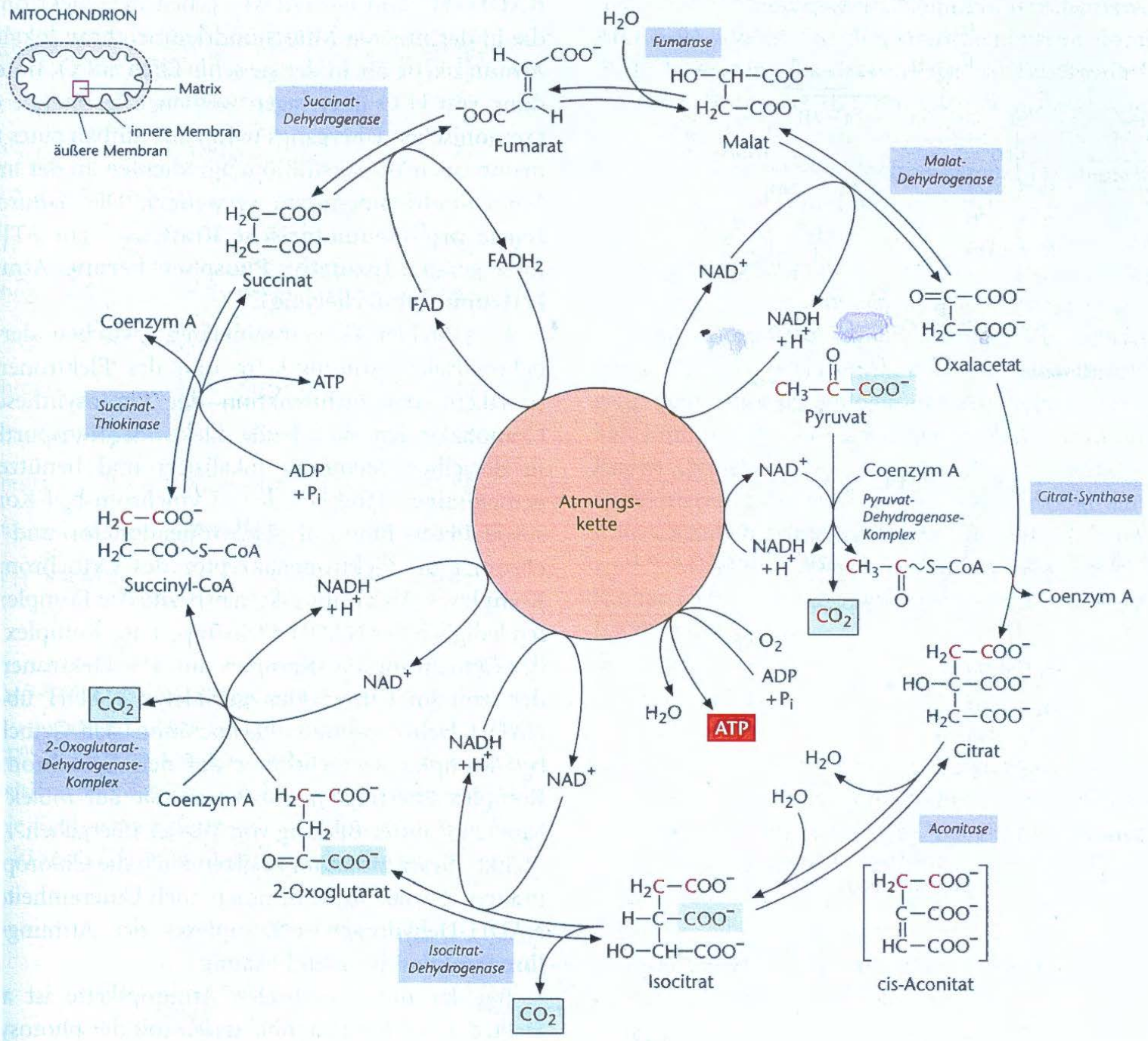
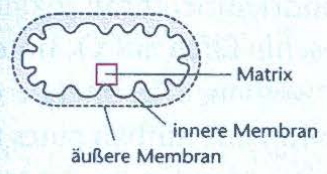


- Respiration

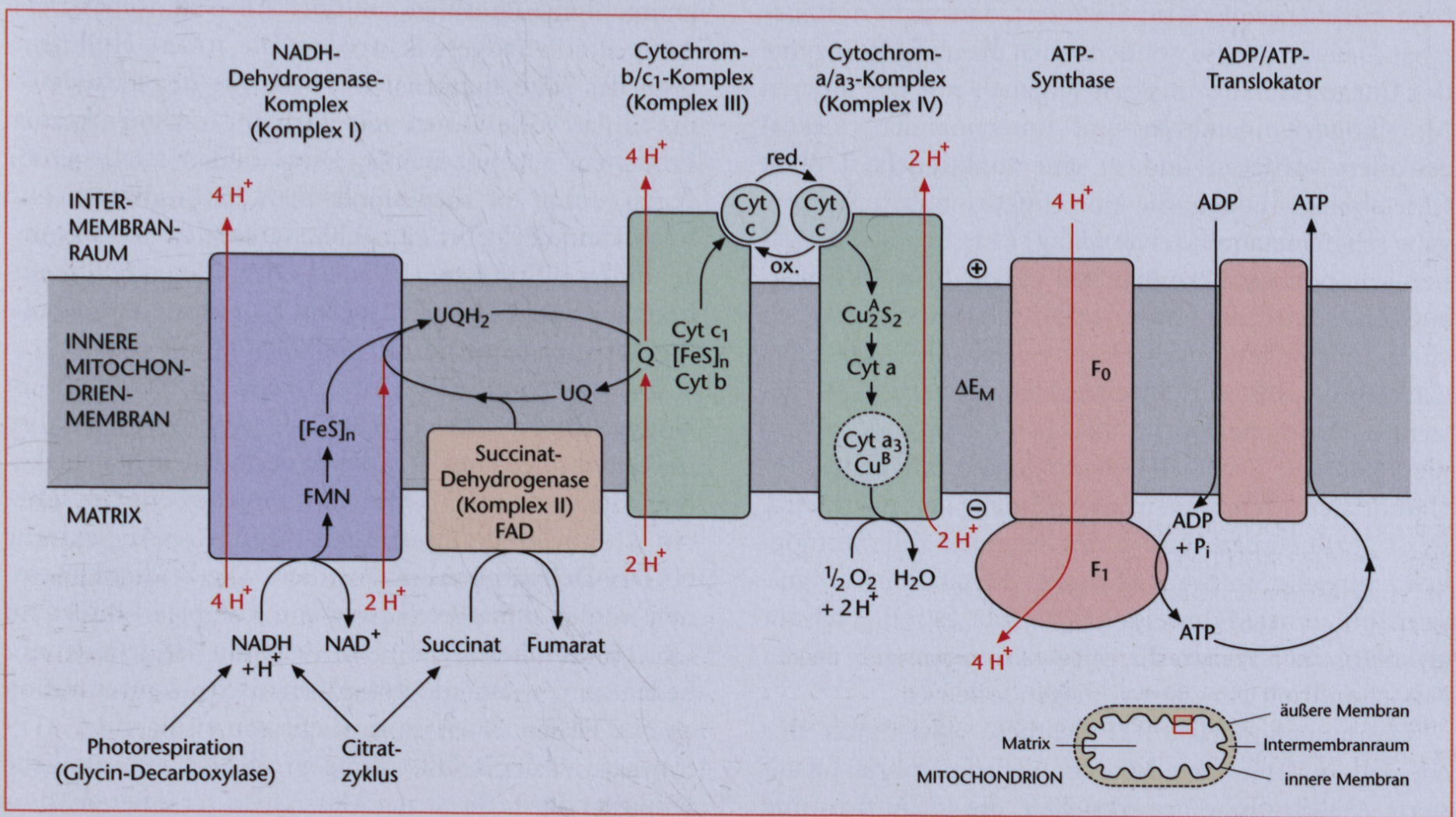


$$\text{RGR} = \frac{dW}{dt} \times \frac{1}{W}$$

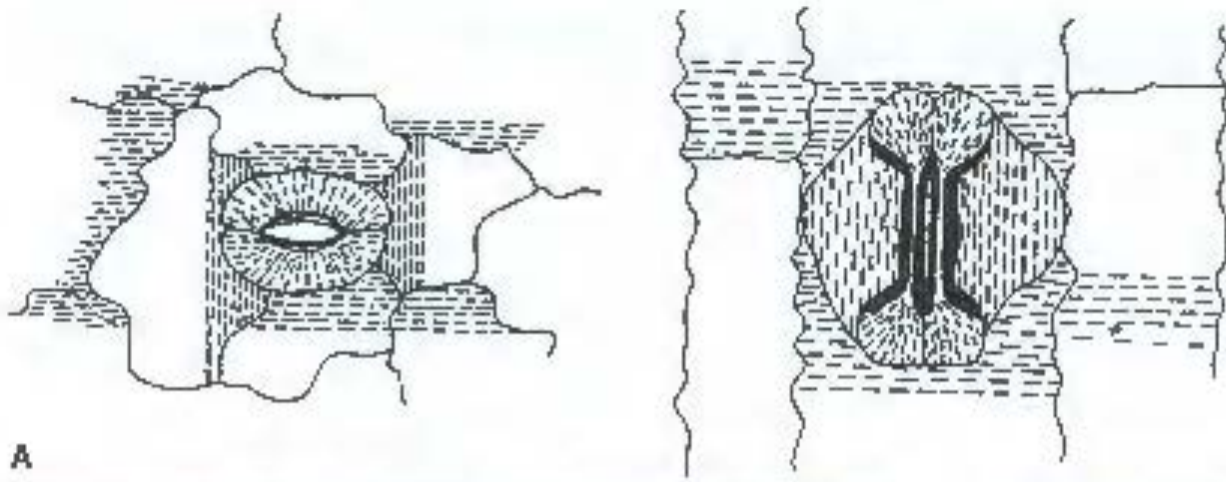
MITOCHONDRION



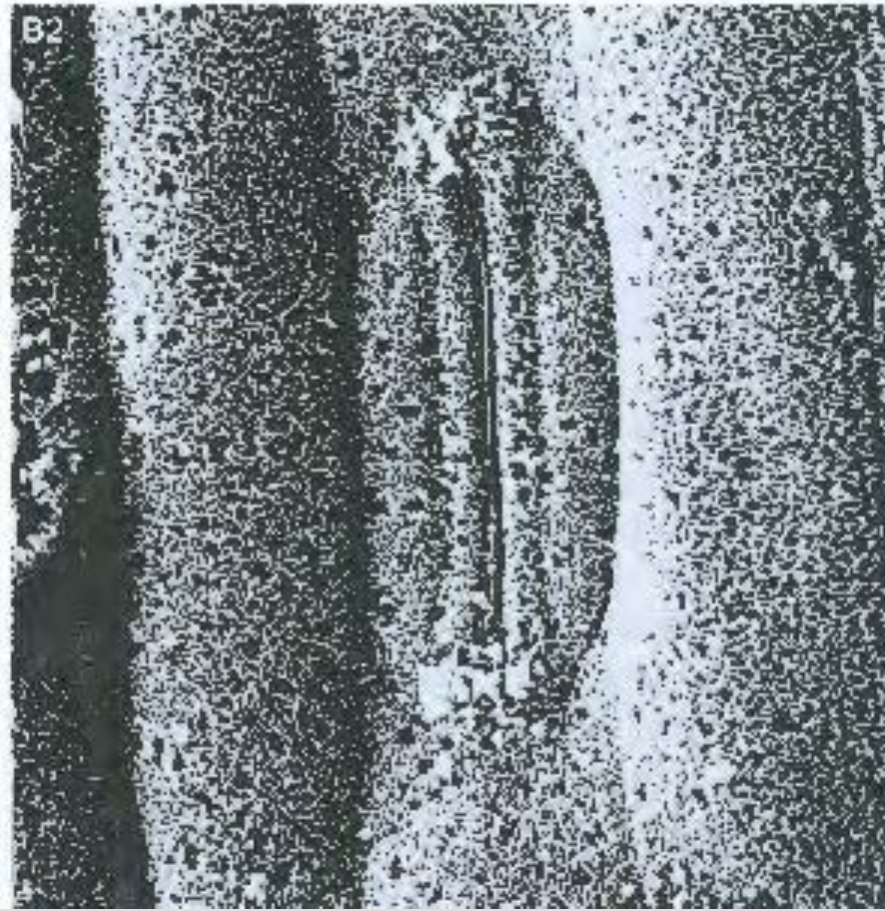




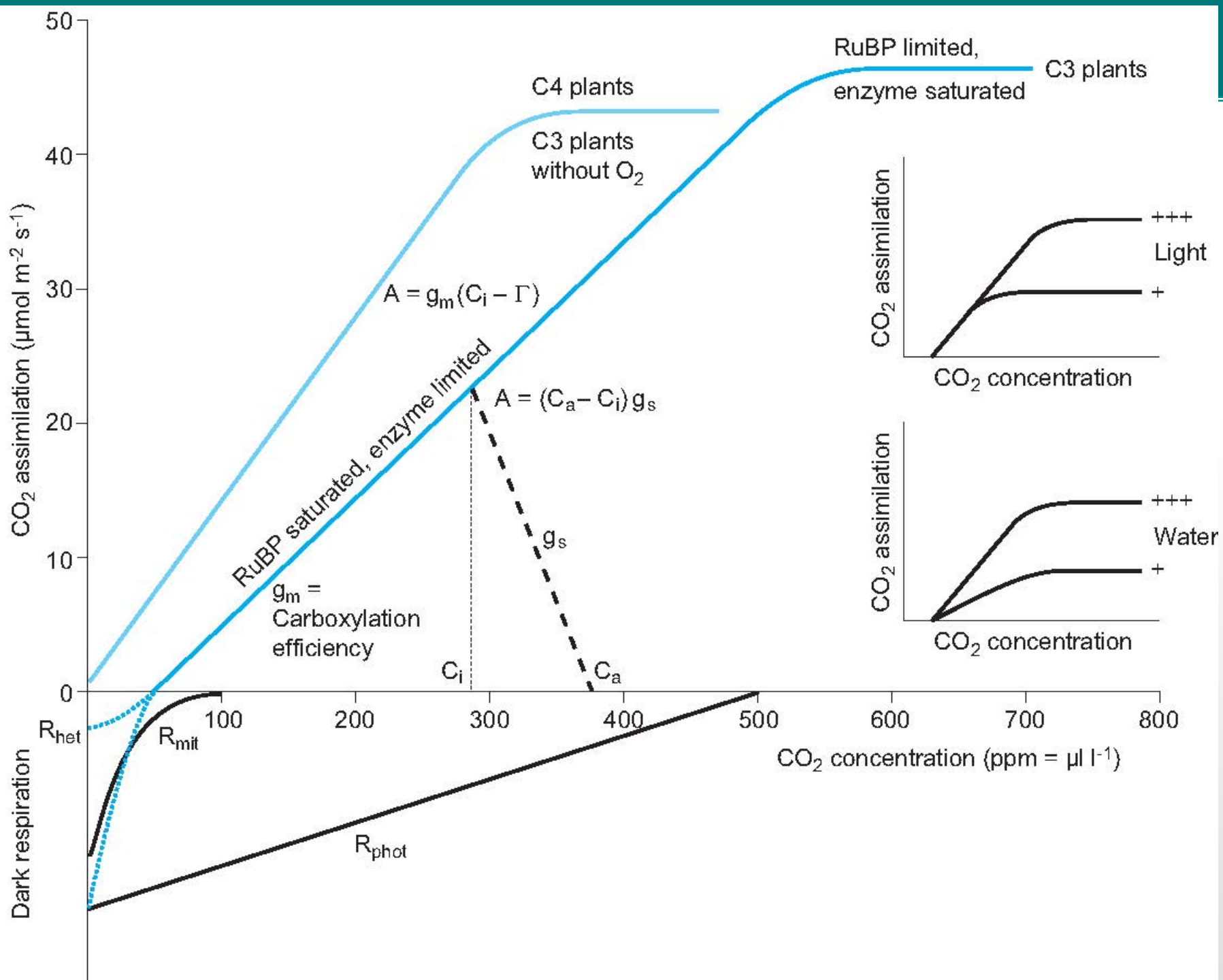
- **Gas exchange and stomata**

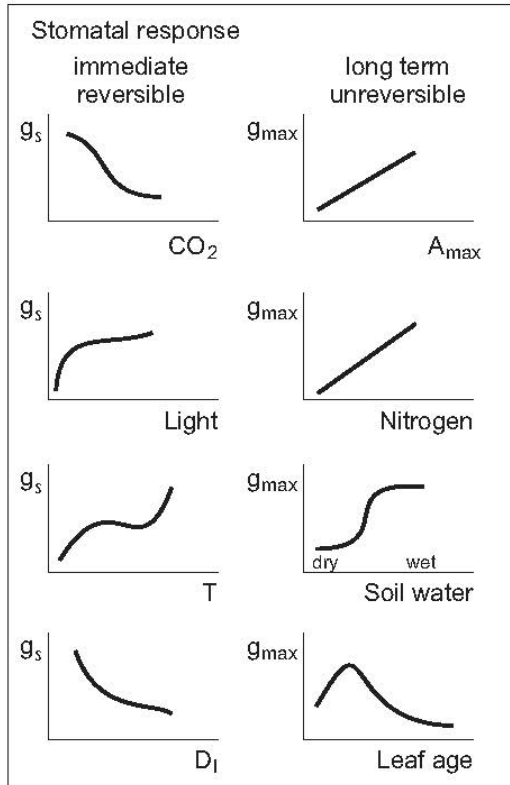
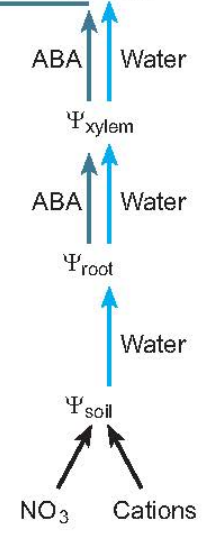
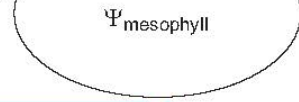
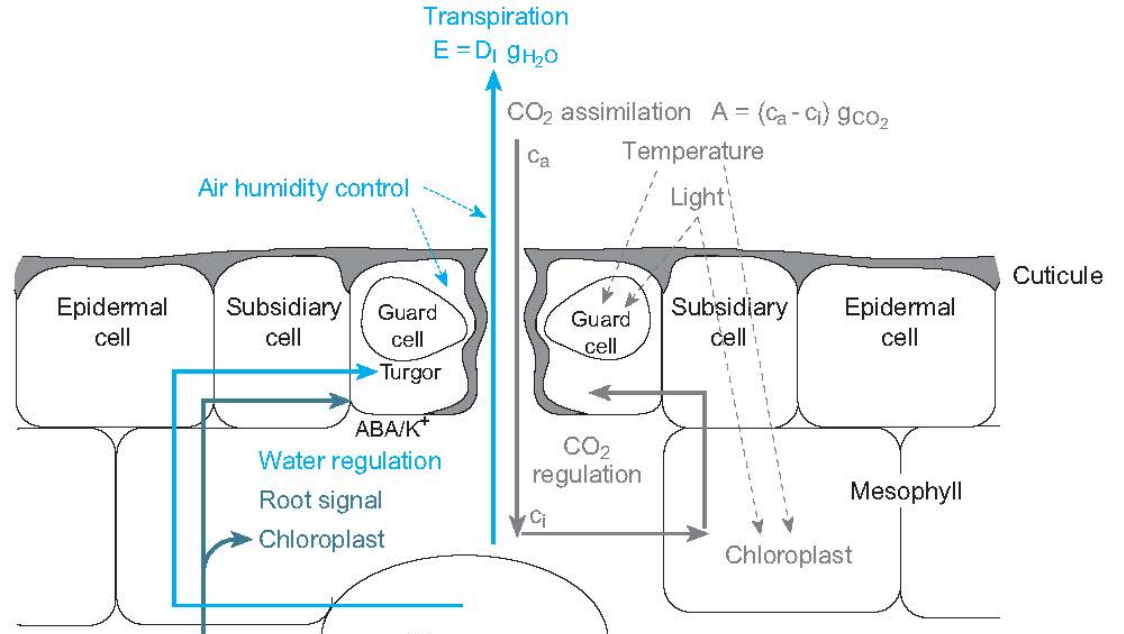


A

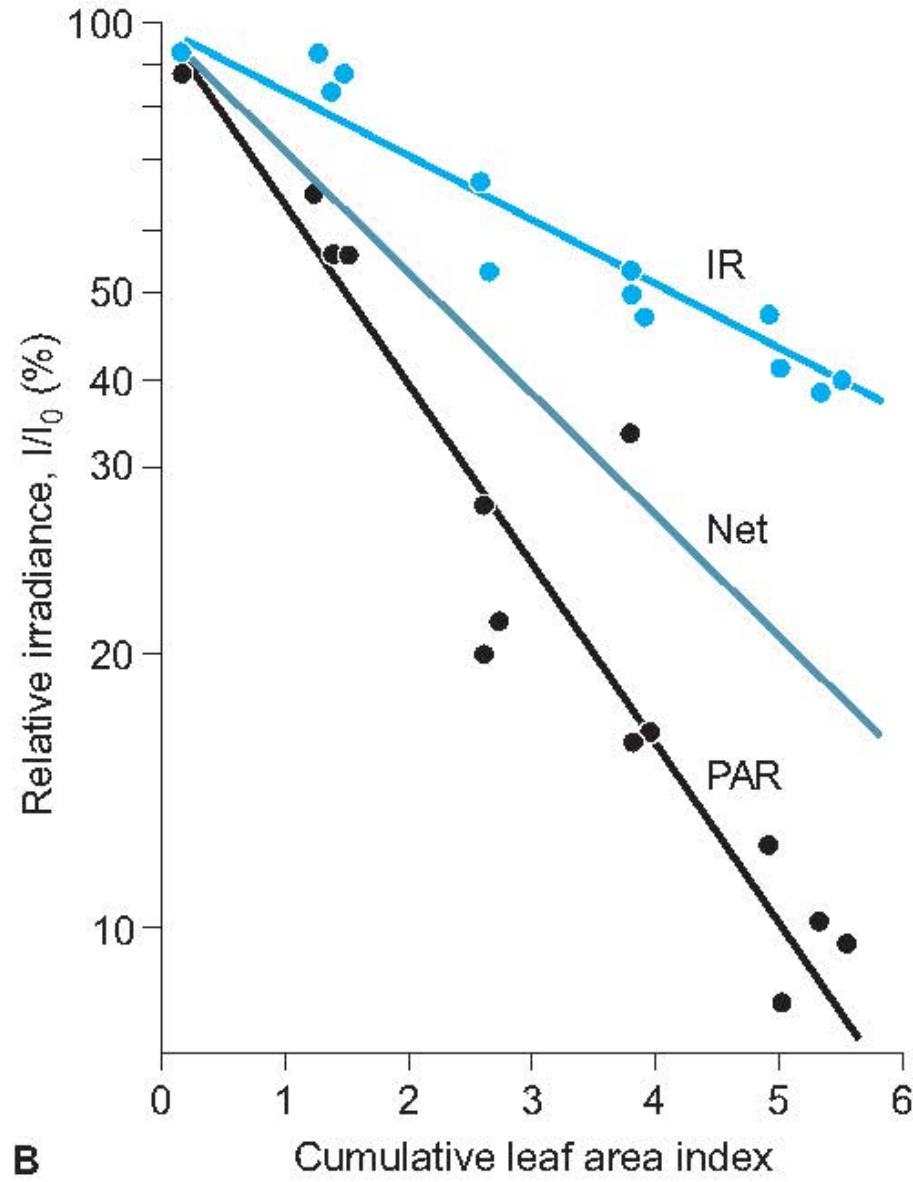
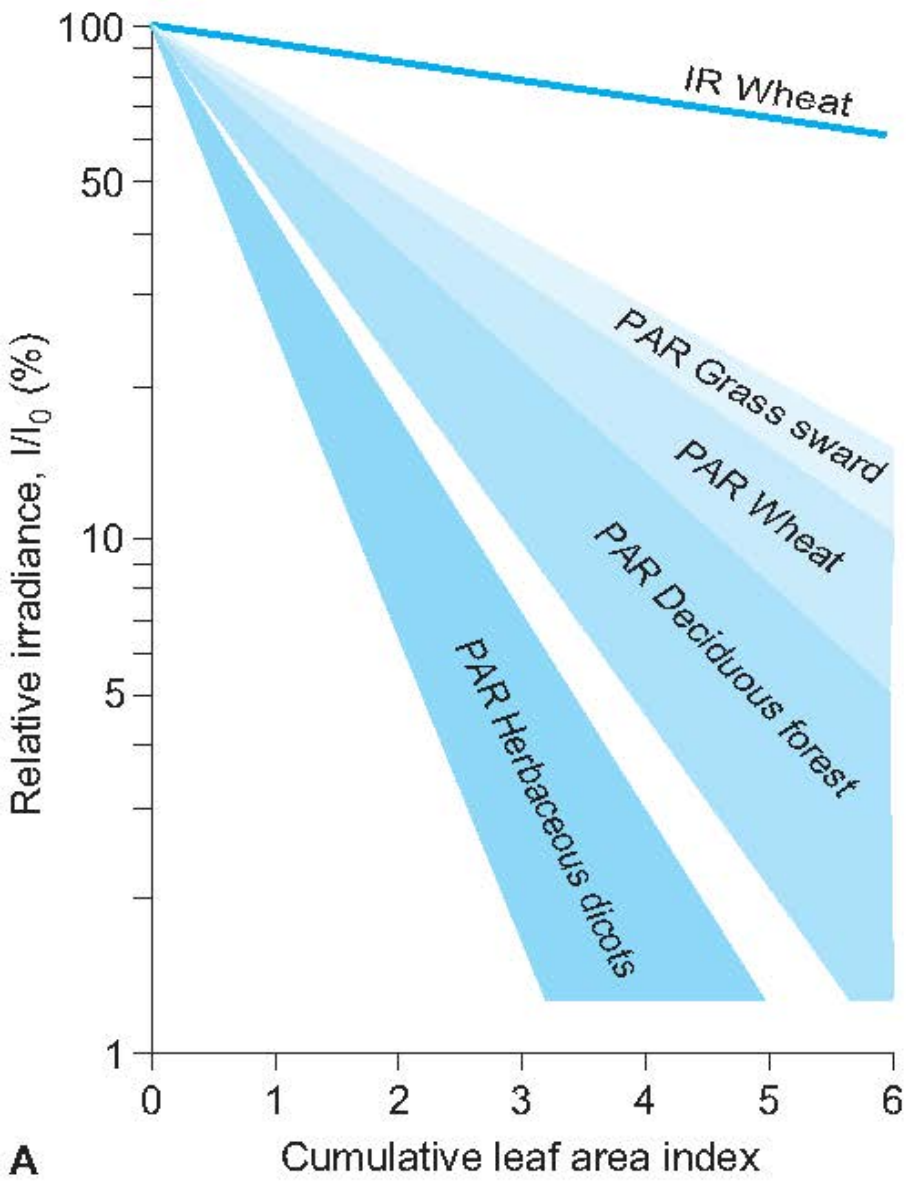


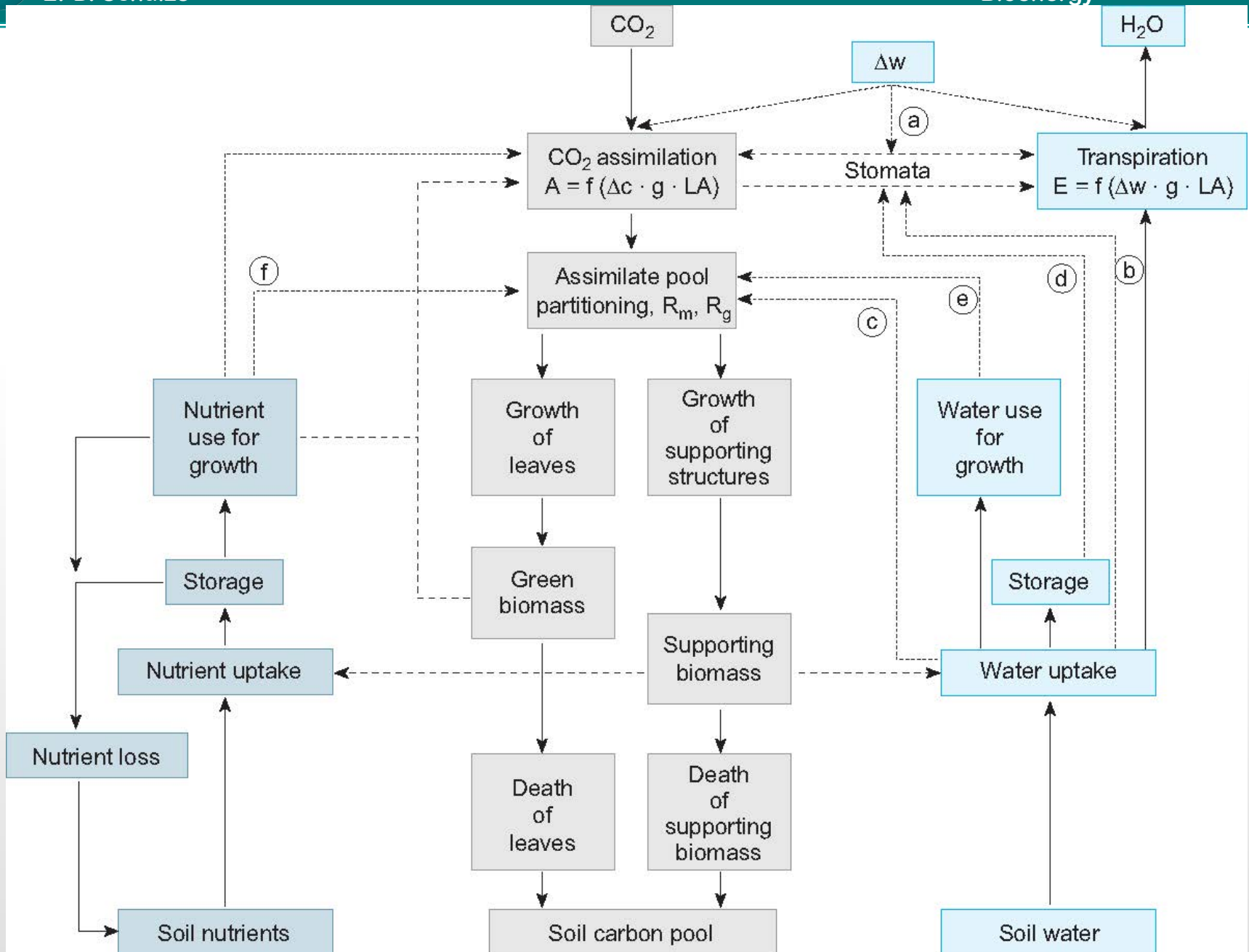
B2



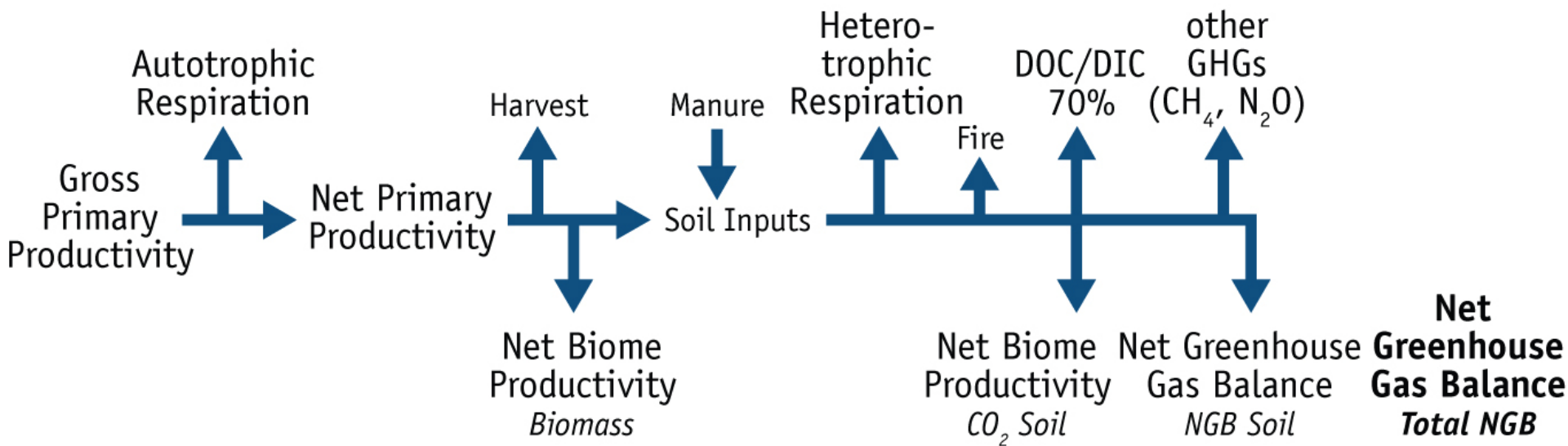


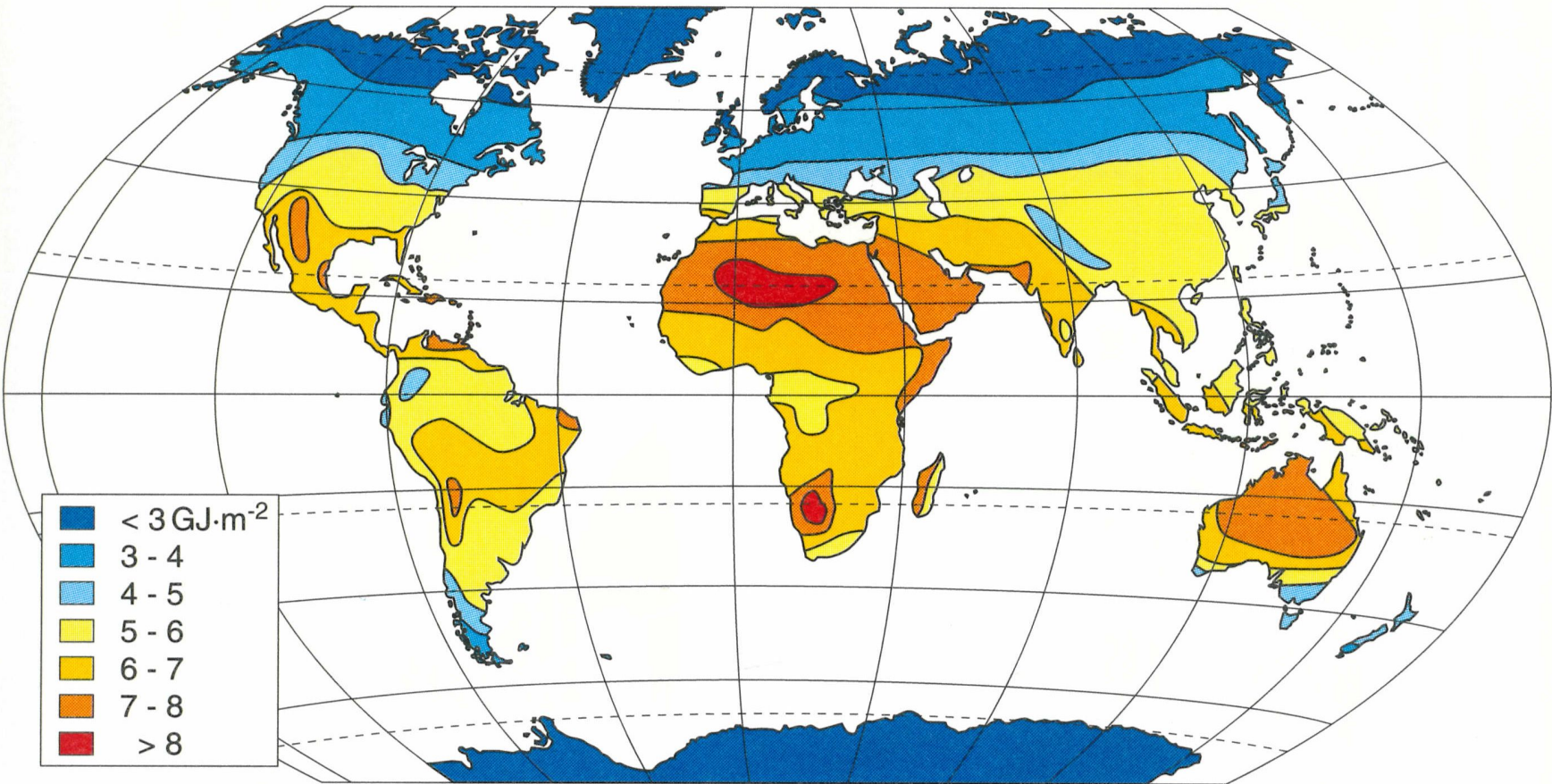
- **Growth**



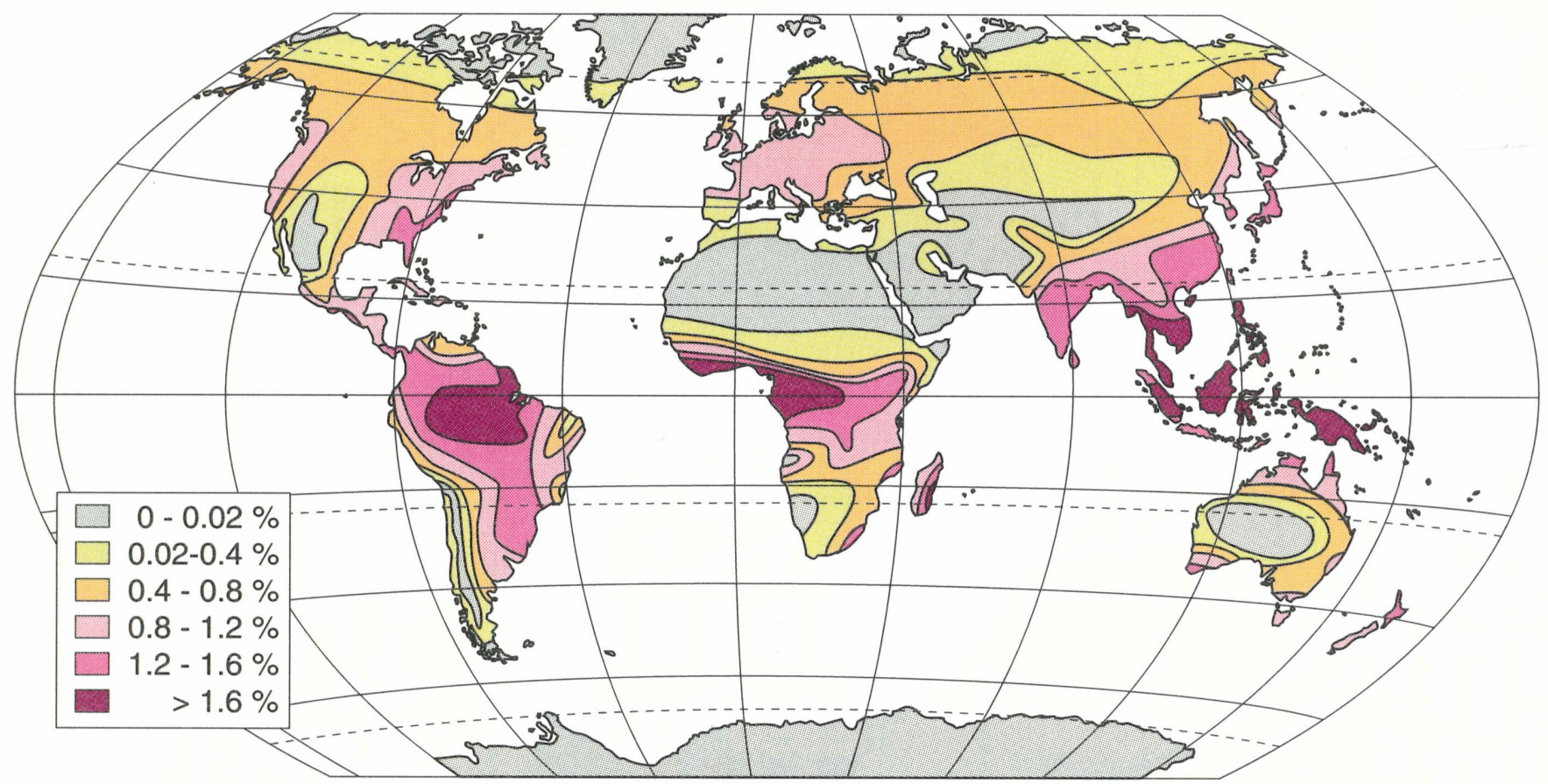






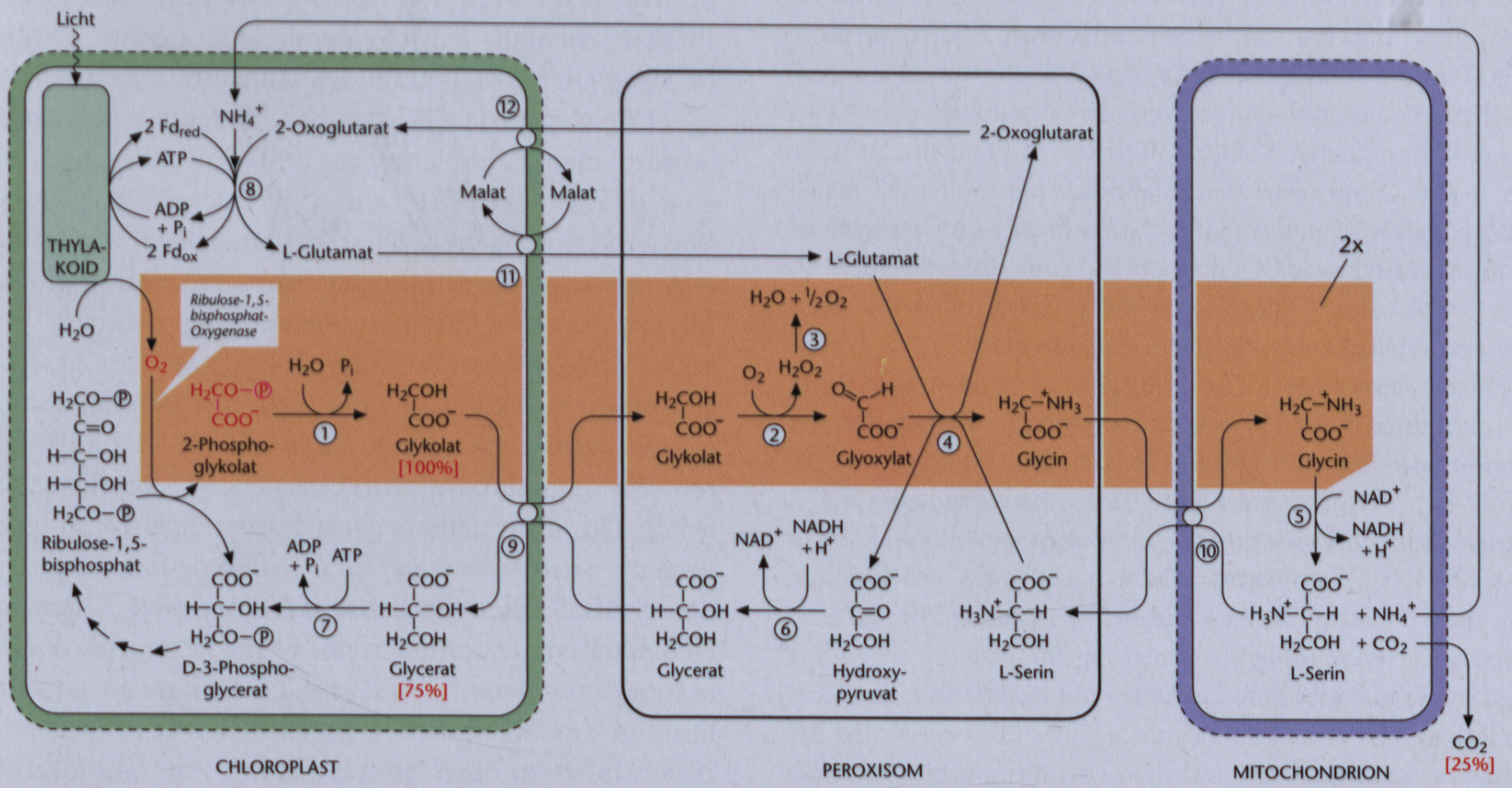


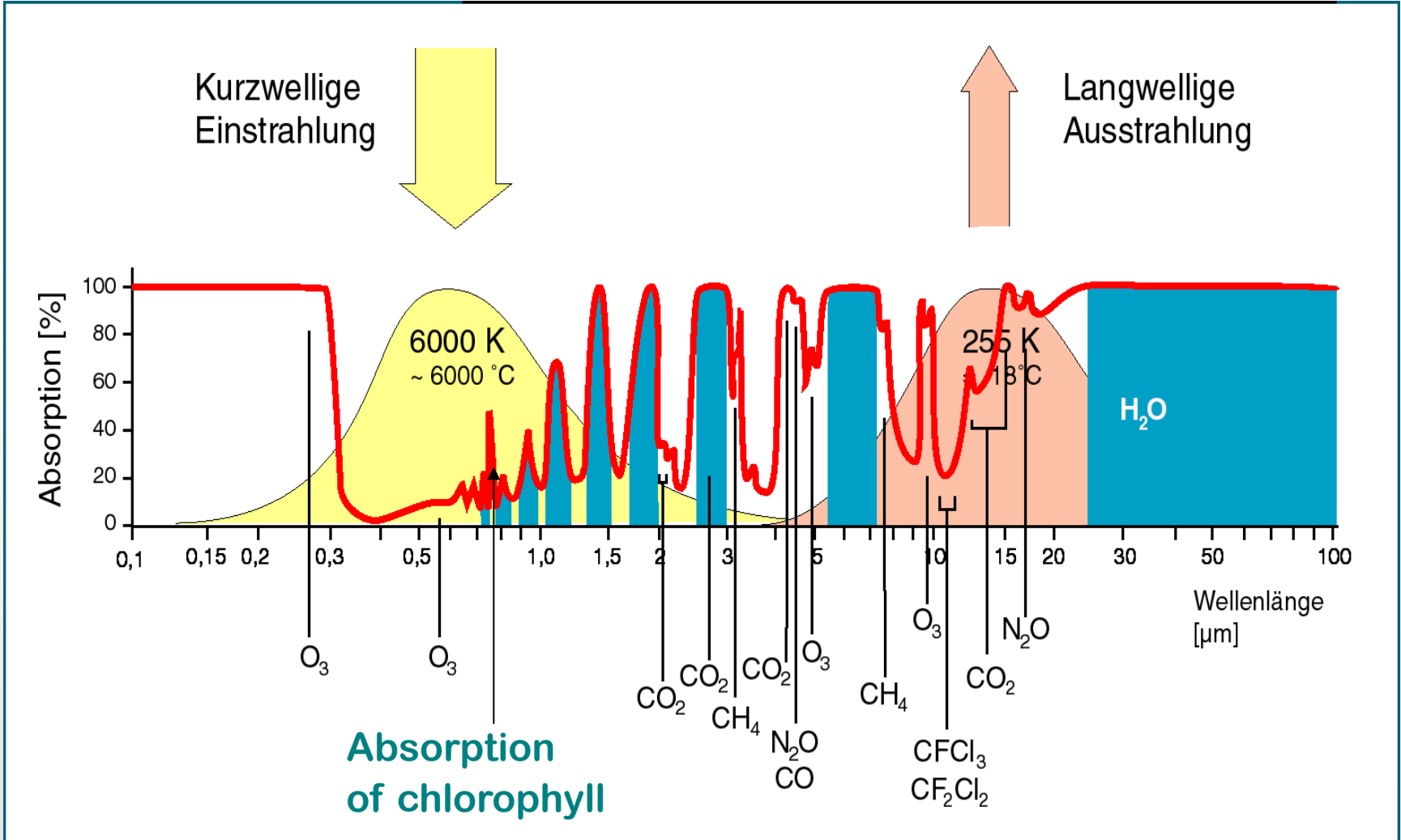
**Color chart Ia** (cf. page 33): Annual totals of global radiation ( $\text{GJ m}^{-2}$ ). Local differences are mainly due to different latitudes and regionally varying cloud covers. (Adapted from maps in Uchijima and Seino 1987; Kotlyakov et al. 1998)

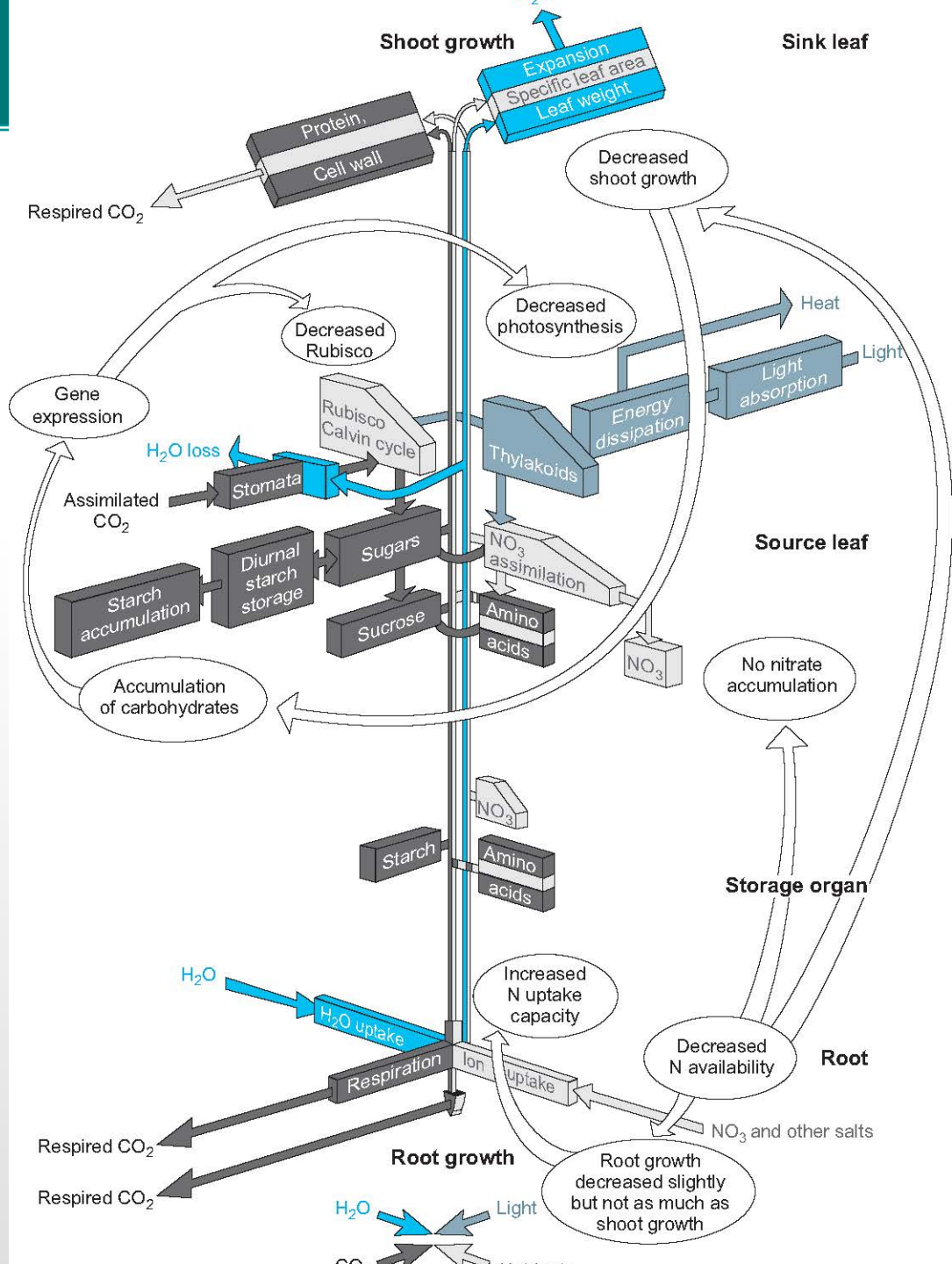


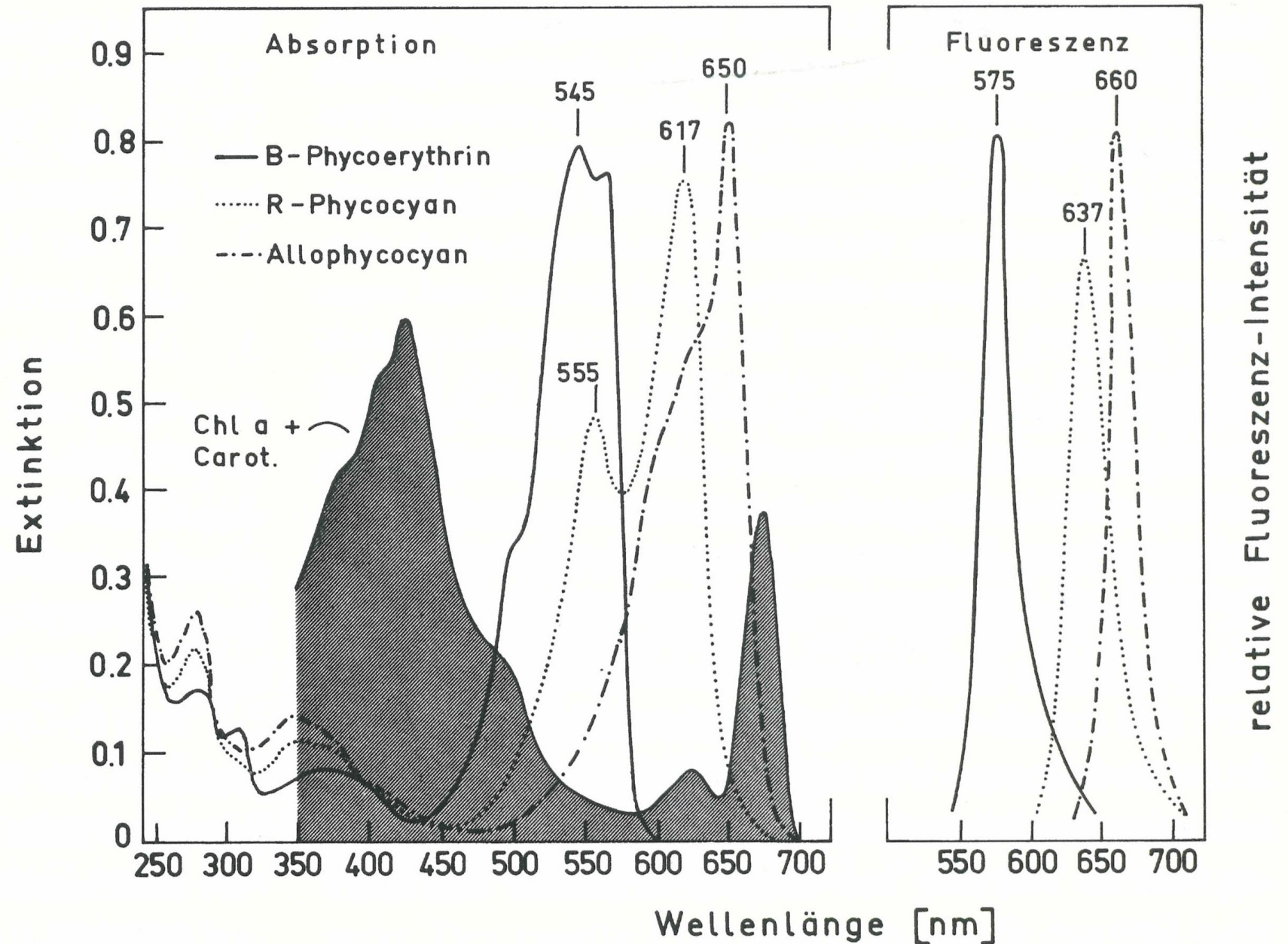
**Color chart Ib** (cf. page 176): Global distribution of radiation use efficiency of the vegetation. Energy efficiency, i.e. energy content of net primary production, is expressed as percentage of the global annual photosynthetically active radiation. (After Uchijima and Seino 1987)

**Thanks**

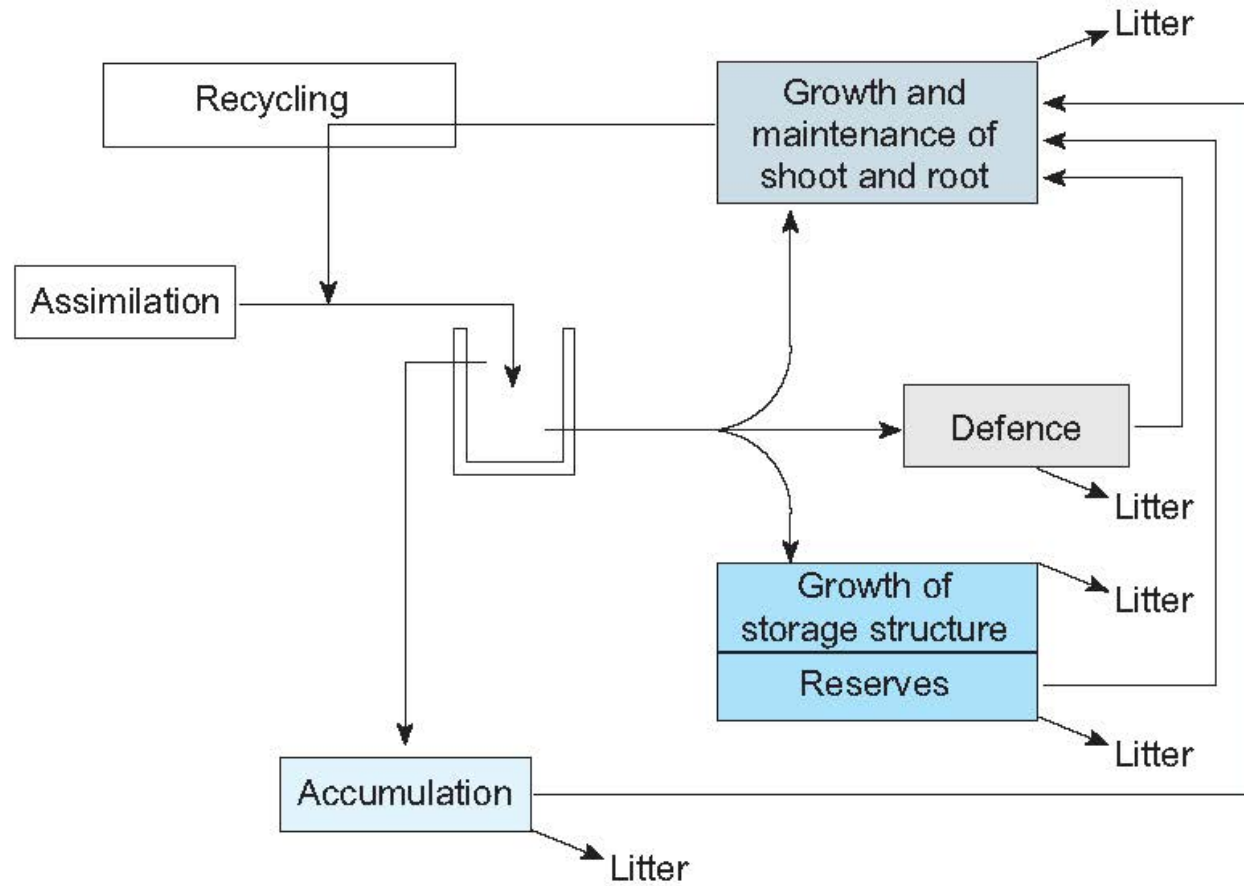
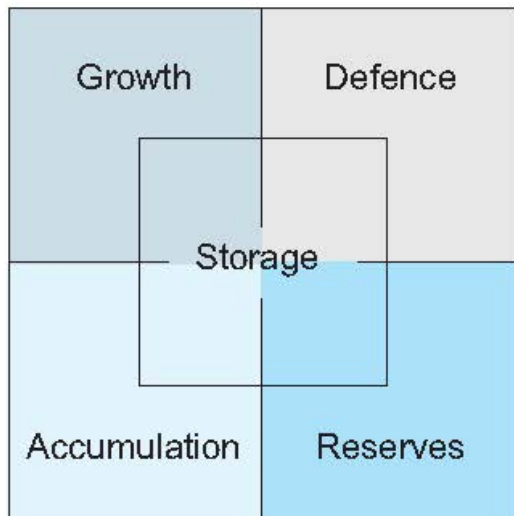






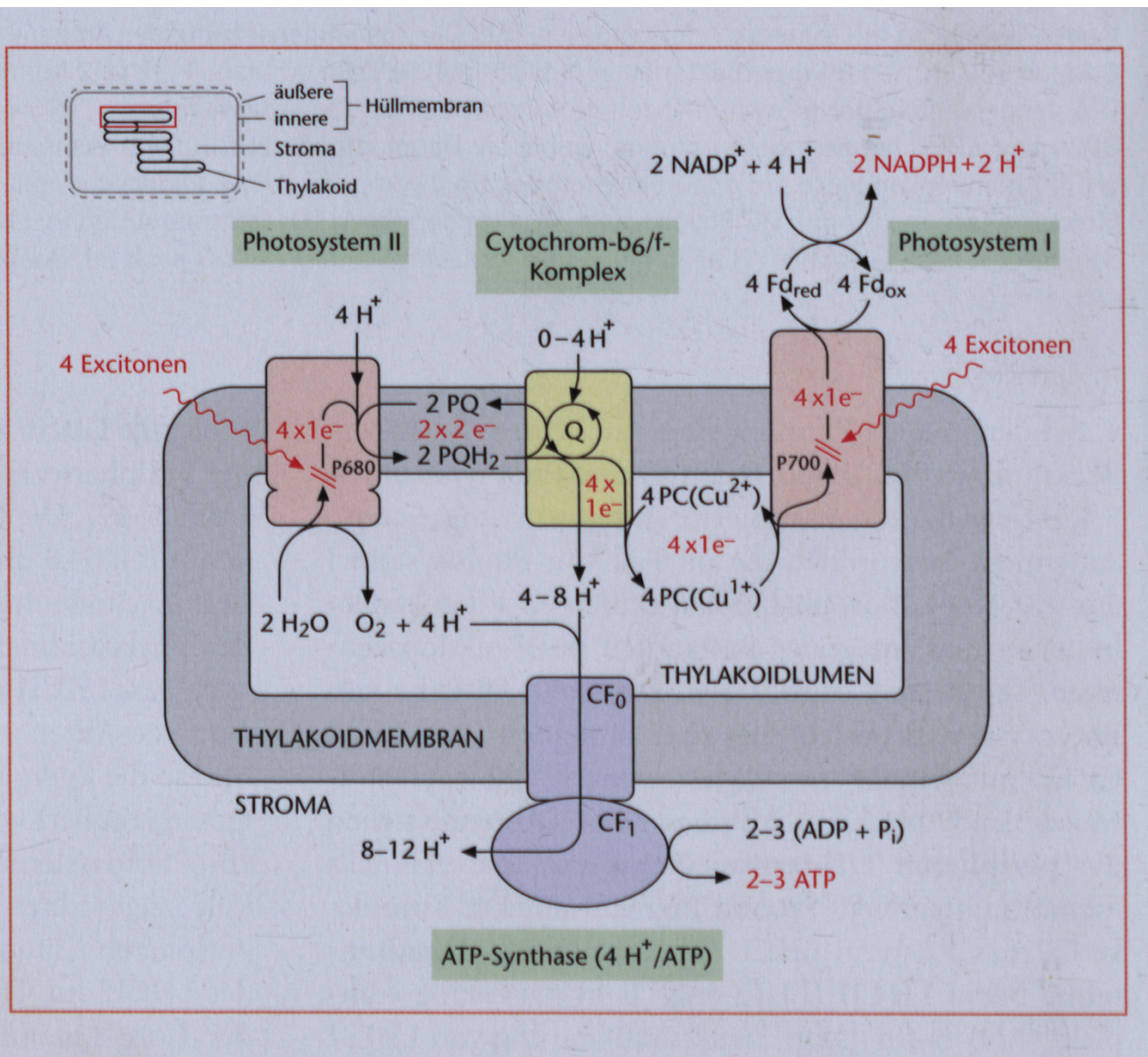






A

B



**Ingredients:**

- A membrane for charge separation
- A number of redox systems for electrontransfer and storage as NADP-H and ATP
- 8 photones:
  - 4 at 680 nm,
  - 4 at 700 nm
- Efficiency 36%

PQ Plastochinone  
PC Plastocyanine  
Fd Ferredoxine