

that this implies; there is yet no practical prospect of long term maintenance of vegetative material in cold store or *in vitro*. Indeed, it may well turn out that even the seeds of many crops will not be amenable to prolonged storage. The book concluded with chapters on documentation and on regional conservation efforts.

In all, I thought this was a good book on a very important subject. That there have already been serious losses but that what remains *could* be conserved is clear. Political will and resources, rather than any new scientific understanding, will be critical. If the editors' estimate of the time-scale of erosion is correct, the need is urgent.

N. W. SIMMONDS

Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Roslin, Midlothian

ANNOUNCEMENT

EUROPEAN DROSOPHILA RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Fifth European *Drosophila* Research Conference will be held at the University of Louvain, in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), from 6th to 8th September 1976. For more information write to: Professor F. A. Lints, Laboratoire de Génétique, Université de Louvain, Place Croix du Sud 2, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.