Contents

Abstract **5**

Zusammenfassung **6**

Chapter 1 Introduction **7**

Chapter 2 Materials and methods **13**

2.1 Plant material **13**

2.2 Growth conditions **14**

2.3 Gas exchange measurements **15**

2.3.1 Gas exchange system 15
2.3.2 Leaf chambers 17
2.3.3 Automation of the gas exchange system 18
2.3.4 Calculations and control measurements 19

2.4 Measurement of lateral diffusion inside leaves **19**

2.4.1 Experimental protocol 19
2.4.2 Calculation of lateral gas conductance and conductivity 20
2.4.3 Data analysis 22

2.5 Dark respiration measurement **22**

2.6 Gas exchange measurement in light **23**

2.6.1 Analysis of CO_2 response curves 24
2.6.2 Shading of the leaf part outside the leaf chamber 25

2.7 Gas exchange measurements under overpressure **25**

2.7.1 Influence of air pressure on gas diffusion – theoretical considerations 27

2.8 Photosynthesis of partly shaded leaves **28**

2.8.1 Measurement of chlorophyll fluorescence 28
2.8.1.1 Experimental conditions 29
2.8.1.2 Experimental protocol 29
2.8.2 Combined measurements of chlorophyll fluorescence and gas exchange 30
2.8.2.1 The experimental protocol 30
2.8.2.2 Data analysis 31
2.8.2.3 Estimation of measurement errors 33

Chapter 3 Results 35

3.1 Diffusion inside leaves 35

3.1.1 Biometric parameters of the investigated leaves 35
3.1.2 Gas conductance and conductivity of the intercellular air space 36
3.1.3 Summary of diffusion inside leaves 40

3.2 Influence of lateral diffusion on gas exchange measurement 40

3.2.1 Measurement of dark respiration 40
3.2.2 Measurement of photosynthesis 42
3.2.3 Shading of the leaf part outside the leaf chamber 46
3.2.4 Summary of the impact of lateral diffusion on gas exchange measurements 48

3.3 Gas exchange measurement under overpressure in the leaf chamber 49

3.3.1 Measurement of dark respiration 49
3.3.2 Photosynthetic gas exchange under overpressure 51
3.3.3 Transpiration and overpressure 54
3.3.4 Summary of the impact of overpressure on gas exchange measurement 55

3.4 Chlorophyll fluorescence of partly shaded leaves 56

3.4.1 Well watered plants 56
3.4.2 Plants under drought stress 58
3.4.3 Quantification of the effect of lateral diffusion on photochemical and non-photochemical quenching 60
3.4.4 Re-watering of drought stressed plants 61
3.4.5 Summary of chlorophyll fluorescence of partly shaded leaves 62

3.5 Photosynthesis of leaves illuminated with lightflecks 63

3.5.1 Experiments with *Vicia faba* 64
3.5.2 Experiments with *Glycine max* 70
3.5.3 Summary of photosynthesis of leaves illuminated with lightflecks 76

Chapter 4 Discussion 79

4.1 Carbon fluxes in and out of leaves 79

4.1.1 Influence of elevated CO_2 on respiration – direct effect 79
4.1.2 Measurement artefacts 80
4.1.3 Gas conductance and conductivity in lateral and vertical direction 80
4.1.4 Gas fluxes in lateral direction 81

4.2 Influence of lateral diffusion on gas exchange measurement 82

4.2.1 Screening for species with different leaf anatomy 83
4.2.2 Influence of lateral diffusion on gas exchange in light 84
4.2.2.1 Lateral gradients within homobaric leaves caused by shading 86

4.3 Gas exchange measurement and overpressure 87

4.3.1 CO_2 exchange under overpressure in homobaric leaves 88
4.3.2 Impact of air pressure on transpiration 89

4.4 Influence of leaf anatomy on gas exchange measurement - conclusion 90

4.5 Visualisation of lateral CO_2 diffusion 92

4.5.1 Stomatal conductance and lateral flux of CO_2 inside leaves 93

4.6 Lightflecks 94

4.6.1 Photosynthesis under drought stress 95

4.6.2 Reduction of drought stress symptoms by lateral CO_2 diffusion 98

4.7 Impact of lateral diffusion on photosynthesis - conclusion 100

4.8 Ecology of plants with homobaric leaves 101

References 103

Abbreviations 113

Appendix 117

Geometrical correction of conductance and conductivity 117