

BOOK REVIEW

GRELL, K. G.: **Protozoology**. — Springer Verlag, Berlin — Heidelberg — New York 1973. 554 pp., 437 Figs. and 15 Tables. DM 107,—.

This is an English translation of the well known GRELL's Protozoologie from 1968 to which a considerable volume of new information has been added.

The book is intended as general protozoology textbook directed mostly to cellular morphology and functional differentiation. The chapter "Subject Nature" discusses the general principles of the organization of living matter, principles of cellular differentiation and the problem of drawing the borderline between *Protozoa* and *Metazoa*. One of the largest chapters "Morphology" offers detailed information on protozoan morphology and based both on light and electron microscopy. Considerable part of the chapter is devoted to protozoan nucleus. Further chapters of the book deal with "Reproduction", "Fertilization and Sexuality", "Alternation of Generations" and "Heredity". These chapters make the heart of the book and their topics are treated in considerable detail. Shorter, although well conceived chapters deal with "Motility", "Protozoan Behaviour" and "Nutrition". A large chapter "Taxonomic Survey" outlines the principles of protozoan taxonomy with some important genera and species discussed in more detail. This chapter is intended to give the reader the basic orientation, however, it does not claim to be an authoritative view on present classification of protozoa.

The large scientific experience of the author is clearly reflected in the quality of the text and of the illustrations. Some topics are more thoroughly treated, some have been evidently intentionally avoided (physiology, biochemistry) as the field of protozoology is far too large to be entirely covered in one book. In its whole the book is well equilibrated for the topics which are treated. About the same attention is given to protophytan and to "true" protozoan organisms.

The incontestable high quality of the book is due to a meticulous selection of topics, the orderly presentation of material and a clear language. The book is profusely illustrated with excellent drawings, photomicrographs and prints of sequences from protozoological films. The use of illustrations is skillfull — often drawings and photomicrographs are mounted together to help the reader in correct interpretation of structures. The references section contains about 1 800 citations, most of them recent. A list of 57 protozoological films which can be leased is also given together with the Subject Index and the Index of Genera.

In the "Introduction" to his Protozoology, Professor GRELL expresses a belief that true protozoologists will disappear in time as they will be replaced by biologists using protozoa only as research tools. However, his excellent book proves that the science of protozoology is far from being dead and that a general protozoologist's approach to *Protozoa* is both valuable and desirable.

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