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## BOOK REVIEW

LEFORT-TRAN, M., VALENCIA, R. (ed.): *Les cycles cellulaires et leur blocage chez plusieurs protistes*. — Éditions du CNRS, Paris 1975. 375 pp.

This volume comprises proceedings of the International Colloquium on cell cycles and their blockade in some protists, organized in 1974 in Gif sur Yvette. The papers, which are mostly original contributions, are divided into six parts covering following topics: General aspects of the rhythms, periodic phenomena of metabolism, DNA, RNA and proteins, the structure and cyclic phenomena and cellular blockades. To study the nucleocytoplasmic relationships of many processes, unicellular algal systems such as *Chlorella pyrenoidosa*, *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* or *Euglena gracilis* were preferred. In most cases cell divisions and some other events comprising the growth and developmental cycle were phased or synchronised by appropriately chosen diurnal cycles of light.

Part one contains eight papers and generally deals with circadian phenomena and with the problems of synchrony and synchronization of cell populations. An interesting case of increased methylation of the nucleic fractions of dividing cells ("supermethylation") was established in *Euglena*. The second part (8 original papers) is mainly oriented to photocontrol of chloroplast and cytoplasm during chloroplast development and the sequence of formation of the components of photosynthetic units during cell cycle. The third and fourth part, together 18 contributions, are focused on periodicity in synthesis of macromolecules as correlated with developmental events and on the changing spectrum of RNA transcripts. The papers concerning cyclic changes of the ultrastructure (4) are contained in part five. Various aspects of the blockade of cell cycle are dealt with in the sixth part, avitaminose being usually used as a blocking factor (4 papers). Creative spirit of the colloquium is well expressed in a record from round-table discussion which forms the final part.

More than three quarters of the contributions are in English, the rest in French. The papers are illustrated with many figures of high quality. This volume is an excellent source of information and ideas.

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