

References

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BOOK REVIEW

Sussman, M.: *Molekularbiologie und Entwicklung*. — Paul Parey, Berlin–Hamburg 1978. 264 pp. DM 29,—. (Translation from English original: *Developmental Biology*. — Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 1973.)

There is a special reason for a student in plant development to recommend Sussman's book. Time has come to check whether the developmental concepts elaborated using zoological models are also feasible for plants. I bear in mind such regulatory mechanisms as *e.g.* morphogenetic fields, differential gene activity *etc.* Plant physiologists working in the field of development are still biased by complicated ecological regulation to be found in plants. It is from this point of view that this book provides a first hand survey of ideas and approaches which form, a framework of contemporary developmental biology.

Apart from this, the work serves its primary destination: to be a textbook on development (it appears in series: Pareys Studentexte). It embodies all the important features of a good textbook, such as clear style, logical set-up and instructive illustrations of high quality. Five chapters cover a wide range of developmental subjects, starting with explanation of basic dogmas of molecular biology and focussing mainly on regulation of morphogenesis in vertebrata. The book may be used equally well in introductory courses for botanists, zoologists and microbiologists as in special lectures for students in related fields.

This book is a real alphabet of modern developmental biology and like any other alphabet even this molecular one is simple enough to be understood and used as part of our general knowledge.

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