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BOOK REVIEW

KUMAR, H. D., SINGH, H. N.: *A TEXTBOOK ON ALGAE*. — The Macmillan Press Ltd., London—Basingstoke 1979. Pp. 216.

The algae are not only extremely beautiful microscopic objects in themselves but also the simple plants which are used as experimental material for advanced research in biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology and as contributors to the productivity of soils and fisheries. This textbook, published in the series Macmillan International College Editions, contains up-to-date material on algae morphology, physiology, genetics and ecology. The classification mainly based on the basis of the photosynthetic pigments, storage products of vegetative cells and the form of motile reproductive cells is with comparative morphology, reproduction, perennation and economic importance included in Part I. The structure and reproduction, the occurrence and ecological amplitude, the cell structure, the micromorphology, the nutrition, the genetics and life cycle, the taxonomy and classification of selected six groups of algae (*Cyanophyta*, *Chlorophyta*, *Xanthophyta*, *Bacillariophyta*, *Phaeophyta* and *Rhodophyta*) are described in Part II. One chapter is devoted to field and laboratory techniques. It includes some of the simpler methods for culturing, microchemical study, separation of pigments by chromatography, preparation of herbarium sheets and permanent slides, estimation of growth and primary productivity, and ecological study of soil and freshwater forms. I think that many readers will find this introductory text a good source of basic information on algology.

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