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BOOK REVIEW

GLOVER, D. M., (ed.): DNA CLONING. A PRACTICAL APPROACH, Vol. I and II. — IRL Press, Oxford — Washington DC 1985. 190 + 245 pp. US $ 45.00.

The new addition to the series "Practical Approach" of IRL is aimed to extend and complement the existing laboratory manuals for DNA cloning.

The topics covered in the first of the two volumes include the use of λ vectors that permit a direct selection of recombinants in library building and the use of λ gt10 and λgt11 vectors for cDNA cloning. A set of plasmid vectors that direct the synthesis of fusion proteins are covered as are the pEMBL plasmids. Two approaches to the *in vitro* mutagenesis of DNA carried in "single-stranded vectors" are presented. There is a detailed description of several methods to attain a high efficiency transformation of *E. coli* with nacked DNA. The final chapter looks at a set of vectors with a broader host range which allows the propagation of plasmid recombinants within Gram negative bacteria other than *E. coli*. In the second volume, alternative bacterial hosts are explored, including *Bacilli* and *Streptomycetes*. The remaining part of the volume focusses on eucaryotic systems with chapters describing the transformation system in yeast, *Drosophilla* and in plants. The field of animal host-vector systems is rapidly evolving and so there may be a call for a separate volume to cover this area. Meanwhile, the general procedures for efficient introduction of DNA into cultured cells as well as some of the transformation vectors that can be used are also described.

A balanced mixture of descriptions and laboratory protocols should prove usefulness of these books to students and teachers of molecular biology. The techniques that are described will find widespread application by research workers at universities and in industry.

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