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BOOK REVIEW

KAHL, G.: ARCHITECTURE OF EUKARYOTIC GENES. – VCH Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Weinheim 1988.

The past years have proved to be an exciting era in the field of gene structure and function research. An enormous amount of stimulating new data has appeared in the literature and has been presented at scientific meetings. The objectives of this publication, based on a symposium on chromatin structure of plant genes, was to overview all aspects of chromatin architecture as an important field of molecular biology. The book falls into 8 main sections, the first of which looks at the DNA structure. The subsequent contributions cover DNA-affine proteins and their genes, DNA-protein interactions, chromatin, DNA-methylation and transcription, nuclear matrix, and chromosomes. The concluding review (J. Bonner) discusses perspectives of plant chromatin and gene research, especially the promising studies of the plant *Arabidopsis* DNA structure and expression. This plant has a very small genome ($7 \cdot 10^{-7}$ base pair) with about 10% repetitive sequences. By studying *Arabidopsis* genes and their control we could soon have an understanding of plant gene expression equal to that we have today of *Drosophila*.

This book provides a comprehensive review of gene and chromatin structure especially in plants. It was accomplished by the splendid cooperation of more than 80 experts and should be considered as an invaluable reference source not only to students but also to scientists interested in various aspects of molecular biology.

J. VELEMÍNSKÝ (Praha)