

Griffiths, A.J.F., Miller, J.H., Suzuki, D.T., Lewontin, R., Gelbart, W.M.: **An Introduction to Genetic Analysis**. Seventh Edition. - W.H. Freeman and Company, New York 2000. 867 pp. CD-ROM. GBP 30.99. ISBN 0-7167-3771-X.

The fascinating and perfectly presented guide through the realm of general and molecular genetics comes in the new edition. With its new conception unravelling the teaching dilemma, which of the two genetics should the students be introduced to first, molecular or classical, the book continues to be the best choice for students as introduction to genetics available. Nevertheless, this comprehensive book in genetics should be a very good overview for generally unqualified people presenting recent genetics problems in media.

The book has 26 chapters covering the wide area of general and molecular genetics, including recent developments. First four chapters cover the general aspects of inheritance presented in classical and molecular genetics point of view with many examples. Subsequent three chapters present the genetic mapping as useful tool for gene hunting and identification. Chapters 8 to 14 concentrate on molecular genetics including recombinant DNA technology and genomics. The additional six chapters (15 to 20) deal with mutations, whether gene mutations or chromosome mutations. Moreover, chapters 19 and 20 illuminate in detail recombination and transposable genetic elements. Then follow three chapters about developments including chapter about cancer as genetic disease and last three chapters about genetic tools in population and evolution studies. Finally, there is a short appendix about genetic nomenclature, recommended further reading, comprehensive glossary and answers to selected problems. The book is faithful to its title and on almost every page are presented the landmark experiments in genetics. Each chapter starting with a key concepts followed by explanations of problems strengthened by many figures and issued with chapter summary and selected problems. The final part of each chapter, the summary, concept map, chapter integration problem, solved problems, problems and unpacked problems, is one of the most strengths of the book. It fosters the analytical and problem-solving skills of the students.

Solved problems are very useful part of most of the chapters presenting the step-by-step exercise in problem solving. Also unpacked problems represent the integrating part of the each chapter and help to reveal not only the tip of the iceberg of knowledge but most of the rest. Close together, the chapter integration problem try to connect and integrate one set of learned skills with previous ones. Short boxed messages occurring throughout all chapters and chapter summaries will appreciate especially students preparing to the exam. On the other hand, available supplements including Solutions manual, Transparency set, Instructor resource manual and Test bank, *etc.*, appreciate the lecturers. With every copy of the textbook is packaged the hybrid CD-ROM (for Windows and MacIntosh) containing over 30 animations covering almost all chapters.

This seventh edition has many new features considering from the feedback of previous editions. The new features include the integration of classical and molecular genetics in the whole book. Traditionally there are many examples passing through the book as thin red line. Also new chapter sequence for topic cohesiveness helps to orientation. Explanations are more simplified. This helps to understanding at all but when one want to know more in detail about special topic it is necessary to consult further reading. Two new chapters, more than 50 new problems and many overall updates pointed out the novelty.

In my opinion this book is a very smart choice for all students in biology and also for teachers. According to my practice in teaching this textbook has many advantages over the other textbooks in the field. One for all examples: the final part of each chapter, especially the solved problems and unpacking the problem, is unprecedented. Unfortunately the Answers to selected problems are really only to selected problems, however available test bank containing over 700 test questions can supply this small imperfection in this otherwise perfect textbook.

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