

# Book Reviews

Emmett Wright  
*Department Editor*

## BOTANY

### PERSPECTIVES ON PLANT POPULATION ECOLOGY

by Rodolfo Dirzo and Jose Sarukhan, Eds. 1984. Sinauer Associates (Sunderland, MA 01375-0407). 478 p. \$45.00 hardback, \$27.50 softback.

Plant ecology, having been a long time in the developmental stage, has recently emerged as an important branch on the tree of biology. This book contains an in-depth look at the major areas of the field in its four sections. Each of the 19 chapters is a current and comprehensive contribution to the study of plant ecology.

This book provides the variety indicated by its title both in terms of authorship and subjects. The authors range from botanists to population biologists, and the subjects range from plant morphology to range management and weed science. The very thorough bibliography will prove most helpful to those whose research lies within the scope of this book.

Value to plant ecologists, researchers, and graduate students is clearly evident in this book. I do not recommend this book for less than upper-level college students, nor for those who are not genuinely interested in an in-depth study of plant population ecology.

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## CAREERS

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PROFESSION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

by David S. Lindberg, Mary Stevenson Britt and Frances W. Fisher., 4th ed. 1984. Lea & Febiger (600 Washington Square Philadelphia, PA 19106-4198). 114 p. Price not given.

This book's spectrum of topics includes discipline definition, brief history, discussion of the accrediting process and agencies involved, and the variation in undergraduate educational programs, the clinical experience, and graduate studies. Considerable attention is given to employ-

ment opportunities, the future of the profession, professional ethics (to a minor degree), the various professional organizations, supportive personnel, and other programs certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP).

The book is well written except the forward is somewhat awkward. The content is accurate and current and the subject matter logically sequenced. The credentials held by the authors lend considerable credibility to the book.

The format and printing are excellent. The bold, darkly printed lettering identifying chapter and sub-topics is particularly appealing. Each chapter is printed in a dark, straightforward type which is easy to see and read.

This document is needed by the profession and is of considerable value to educators, working professionals and students.

In summary, the book is needed, relevant, current, and accurate. The authors are to be commended for effectively weaving new and current threads into the basic fabric of Ruth Williams' original publication.

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### WORKING FOR LIFE: CAREERS IN BIOLOGY

by Thomas A. Easton. 1984. Plexus Publishing, Inc. (143 Old Marlton Pike, Medford, NJ 08055). 128 p. \$12.95 hardback.

Easton has given us a valuable and refreshing book—valuable because the discussions of a career in biology are comprehensive, though the book is relatively brief, and refreshing because Easton, a male author, shows a unique understanding of the problems encountered by women and minorities in science careers.

Students who are pondering career choices will find the book interesting and very informative. The author has presented a wide range of useful data about most phases of a biologist's career. As well, he has discussed the pertinent aspects of a career in biology, including: fields of biology; biology organizations; a personal suitability for the career (for example, a willingness to work long hours in the laboratory); educational requirements and costs; descriptions of biological careers in the academic world, in industry, in government, and as a self-employed biologist.

Possibly worth the price of the book, alone, are the reading references distributed throughout the text, and the

sections at the end of the book which give a list of career pamphlets and the sources for obtaining them, a bibliography of further readings, and a second bibliography on biographies.

This book may well be the best on the market for a description of careers in biology. I heartily recommend it to teachers and librarians, and to students.

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## ENDOCRINOLOGY

### ENDOCRINOLOGY

by Mac E. Hadley. 1984. Prentice-Hall, Inc. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632). 532 p. \$32.95 hardback.

This textbook melds classic endocrinology and neurophysiology to examine neuroendocrine function and a broad "theory of hormones". Derived from a college lecture series, it would serve well in a general endocrinology course and as a reference in human or comparative physiology.

The first four chapters overview historical background, the vertebrate endocrine system, methodologies and mechanisms of hormonal action. Classic concepts are presented and then broadened to encompass more than 100 established or putative hormones and related cellular factors. New concepts of delivery are discussed, and the old "one cell, one hormone" tenet is broken. Major human systems follow in 17 thorough chapters, each divided into: Introduction; Sources; Synthesis and Chemistry; Secretion and Control; Metabolism; Physiological Roles; Mechanisms of Action; and Pathophysiology. Some comparative physiology is presented, setting the background for a final section on the evolution of neuropeptides as the author reprises questions on the

**Emmett Wright** is a professor of biology education and science education coordinator at Kansas State University. Until the fall of 1984, he was an associate professor of science education and director of the Science Teaching Center at the University of Maryland.

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