

tioned without adequate introduction or explanation. The genetic coding system is introduced, but again more explanation is needed. The process of protein synthesis is presented, but the types of RNA are not explained.

This program is a poor teaching program. It does an adequate job as a review prior to testing or at the conclusion of a unit.

Anna M. Vacca
Hewitt Trussville Junior High
Trussville, AL 35173

INSECTS

The social insects. 1984. REX Educational Resources Company—Carolina Biological. Burlington, NC. Filmstrip with cassette (51 frames). Purchase: \$36.50.

This filmstrip presents a brief survey of selected examples of semi-social and truly social (eusocial) insects. The insects presented include burying beetles, tent caterpillars, giant wood wasps, ichneumon wasps, paper wasps, honey bees, army ants and termites.

The photographs are good, their colors accurate, and the magnification adequate to present a clear image of the organism being discussed. The pitch of the female narrator is too high for me, but the narration is clear, succinct and generally accurate.

There are some errors, both implicit and explicit. Paragraph #16 in the script: "Each [honey bee] hive contains several thousand individuals of the three castes." This might be misinterpreted to mean each caste represents one-third of the total population. There is normally only one adult queen, relatively few drones, and a huge number of workers.

A clearer example of a factual error is (paragraph #20), "... the old queen and her attendant workers may leave the hive ... set about producing new queens. ..." This implies that after the exit of the old queen, the workers initiate formation of new queens. According to E.O. Wilson (*The Insect Societies*), the pre-queen eggs are laid by the old queen in specially constructed cells. Wilson's book would be an excellent supplement for this filmstrip.

The filmstrip is appropriate for all grade levels from elementary school to introductory college courses. The manual which accompanies the set contains only the script. It would be of greater value to new teachers or those not familiar with the subject if it con-

tained sample lesson plans, a list of discussion questions, and suggestions for preview or followup.

Walter Lener
Nassau Community College
Garden City, NY 11530

MICROBIOLOGY

Introduction to the protozoa. 1983. REX Educational Resources Company—Carolina Biological. Burlington, NC. Filmstrip with cassette (51 frames), 20 min. Purchase \$36.50.

This is a collection of excellent scanning electron microscope (SEM) photomicrographs of protozoa. The organization is taxonomic and reflects a traditional system without including Sporozoa. Three major groups of protozoa are described: the Mastigophora (9 frames); Sarcodina (6 frames); and Ciliophora (23 frames). The major morphological characteristics of each

group are given clearly and concisely except that section on the distinctions among the different types of oral cavities in the three types of Ciliophora seems a bit too detailed.

Crisp, clear, uncluttered black and white photographs should stimulate student curiosity and a desire to see the organisms directly. If one were to have a single filmstrip to introduce the protozoa in an introductory biology course, this would be an excellent choice.

K. Michael Foos
Indiana University East
Richmond, IN 47374

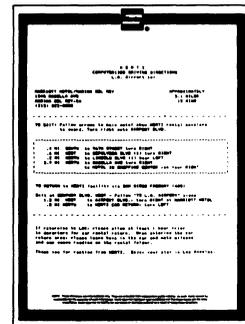
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