

easily wiped clean with a damp tissue. It therefore constitutes an excellent fly swatter for those inevitable failed experiments.

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On Competition by C. T. DE WIT. First published in 1960 and now reprinted as *Evolutionary Monographs*, vol. 7 by University of Chicago Press, 915 East 57th St, Chicago, IL 60637, USA. 1986. 82 pages. \$10.00 (institutions); \$8.00 (individuals).

This book is an ecological classic, dealing with the effects of competition between species (mostly plants) under various circumstances. It is not genetical. What is called 'Fisher's Fundamental Theorem of Natural Selection' is mentioned on page 7, but in fact this is not really Fisher's theorem, but an analogous but rather simpler ecological theorem. Otherwise genetical considerations are hardly mentioned, although the results obtained on the rate at which selection operates would be relevant to any fully developed genetical theory of natural selection.

The book begins with a model in which two species develop independently in neighbouring areas, so that strictly speaking there is no competition, but nevertheless one species will end by being more abundant. Later chapters deal with the effects of limited-space mixtures of two species, or healthy and diseased plants of the same species, on the rate of growth of colonies on their own in competition with other species, mixtures of several species, and more complicated types of competition. In every case in which equations of growth are derived they are compared with actual experimental results of similar situations, often with quite strikingly good agreement. Useful advice is given on how to conduct experiments to obtain informative and reliable results.

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Oncogenes and Growth Control. Edited by PATRICIA KAHN and THOMAS GRAF. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1986. 369 pages. DM 148. ISBN 3 540 16839 7.

This timely book is a collection of mini reviews by a variety of authors on a subset of all possible topics which might conceivably come under its title. The editors in their preface make it quite clear what their intentions were when organizing their contributors. They point out how rapidly this subject is progressing and how difficult it is to keep up with the literature in this area. Because of this, mini reviews by experts in a particular speciality are essential if the work is to be published fast and to be up to date. The authors have been rigorously restricted to length of text and numbers of references, thus improving the chances

that the essential facets of a subject will appear, unclouded by detail and unnecessary speculation. The only casualties of such an approach are a few hurt feelings, for which ample and no doubt sincere apologies are given.

There are 47 contributions organized into six sections, and the editors have themselves written introductions to each section and an introduction to the whole book. The average article is of five or six pages, with one table or figure and about 30 references, which are given with complete titles. The length of each section is variable, for instance there is one chapter by Doug Hanahan in the section on Oncogenesis in Transgenic Mice, while there are fourteen contributions to the section on Growth factors, Receptors and Related Oncogenes. The editors deliberately restricted the choice of topics to fibroblast and haemopoietic systems and to the *src*, *myc* and *ras* oncogenes, but there are articles on GM-CSF (Nick Gough), TGF beta (Harold Moses and Edward Leof), TGF alpha (Rik Derynch), EGF and EGFR (by a variety of authors), *c-abl* (Yinon Ben-Neriah and David Baltimore), *v-abl* (Angelika Gebhardt and Gordon Foulkes), *mos* (Donald Blair), IL-2R (Masanori Hatakeyama, Seiji Minamoto, Hisashi Mori and Tadatsugu Taniguchi), protein phosphorylation (Tony Hunter), IP metabolism (Mike Berridge), protein kinase C (various authors), cytoplasmic pH and free calcium (Wouter Moolenaar), regulation of human globin gene expression (Patrick Charnay), regulation of steroid hormones (Miguel Beato), tissue-specific enhancers (Uwe Schlokot and Peter Gruss), DNA methylation (Walter Doerfler), E1A (Lennart Philipson), transactivators of HTLVs (William Haseltine, Joseph Sodroski, Craig Rosen, Wei Chun Goh, Andrew Dayton and Daniel Celander), *c-fos* (Rodrigo Bravo and Rolf Müller; Thomas Jenuwein and Rolf Müller), *myb* (Karin Moelling), and p53 (Moshe Oren). There is also a section on malignant transformation as a multistep process with eight contributions ranging from chemical carcinogenesis (Allan Balmain) through multiple factors involved in B-cell tumorigenesis (George Klein) and the role of Middle T:pp60^{c-src} (Seng Cheng, William Markland and Alan Smith) to the suppression of the neoplastic phenotype (John Wyke and Richard Green). The section on growth factors and proto-oncogenes in development I thought was a particularly useful summary of this subject with regard to mouse development, with three contributions from Aya Jakobovits, Erwin Wagner and Rolf Müller, and Larry Rohrschneider. There is also a very useful index which is complete as far as I am able to judge, as well as a list of abbreviations and of the oncogenes discussed in the book.

What everyone will want to know is, does this format succeed? My opinion is it does very well, and it would be excellent if it were published at one-fifth the price in soft covers, so that all those who will undoubtedly want to read it could afford to buy their