

BOOK REVIEWS

Color Atlas of Histology. Leslie P. Gartner and James L. Hiatt. 2000. 3rd ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 444 pp., \$54.95 (paper). ISBN 0-7817-2585-2.

This spiral bound atlas can serve as a supplementary illustrative guide as well as a stand-alone text. There are 19 chapters, each beginning with five to eight pages of didactic material. Descriptions of structures are brief and concise. Each chapter contains sections on histophysiology and clinical aspects.

The heart of the book is its 330 high quality light micrographs. Typically, four appear on the right facing page and their captions and legends are on the left facing page. Thumbnail drawings are included to show image orientation.

Between the text discussions and micrographs are usually two pages of three-dimensional drawings, which will most likely be the most favored part of the book by students. Each chapter also contains a blank page for student notes and sketches. All chapters end with a few electron micrographs. There are a total of 44 electron micrographs in the book.

One of the impressive features of the book is its interactive CD-Rom. All light micrographs of the book are on the disk as well as 300 from other sources. Most of the electron micrographs are not on the disc nor are the drawings. Images may be viewed with or without labels and legends. About 700 interactive short answer questions on the disc help to prepare students for examination. The CD-Rom is one of the best available in histology. It is easy to use and seems flawless. Unfortunately, the same can not said for the book.

Although this atlas is in the 3rd edition, glaring errors exist. For example, on page 184 a thumbnail drawing of a lymph node appears just under the captions for tonsils. On page 64 the Eustachian tube is said to be fibrocartilage, but in fact it is composed of elastic cartilage. Finally, this book could be improved by numbering 23 pages of illustrations and reducing the width of the front cover, which is a cumbersome 3 inches wider than the pages.

Despite the above complaints, this atlas is among the top five published and worthy of consideration for purchase, especially to obtain the CD.

James G. Saxon
Southern College of Optometry
1245 Madison Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104

Plant Biology. Linda E. Graham, James M. Graham, and Lee W. Wilcox. 2003. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 497 pp. \$69.00 (hardcover). ISBN 0-13-030371-2.

Over the last few decades, two trends in introductory college biology textbooks can be noted. One is the integration of botany, zoology, and microbiology text into comprehensive general biology texts, reflecting the corresponding curricular changes. Secondly, texts have become increasingly encyclopedic: often more than 1000 pages in length.

The thrust of *Plant Biology*, with less than 500 pages (exclusive of appendices and glossary), is counter to both these trends. It is less than half the size of the well-established *Biology of Plants*, 6th ed., by Peter Raven et al.

In spite of its modest size, the usual topics are included, although in less detail than some instructors might prefer. For example, metabolism, photosynthesis, and respiration are presented in a single chapter (8); algae, fungi, and lichens in another (9). Separate chapters on stems (13), roots (14), and leaves (15) present the anatomy of these organs integrated with their function. Plant evolution/diversity is treated in only five chapters (19–23). In contrast, the topic of ecology, including an excellent description of world biomes, is given special, ample coverage in chapters 23–30.

This textbook, written by botanists of the University of Wisconsin, maintains an ideal balance between traditional, basic botany and recent developments. An example of the latter is chapter 18, "Genetic Engineering".

Plant Biology is well written and has excellent full-color illustrations. Ancillaries include a CD-Rom with an image gallery, videos, and animations; also, a website with case studies and study tips. If you are searching for a text for a one-semester introductory botany course, for either majors or nonmajors, this book should be on your short list.

Thomas E. Hemmerly
Department of Biology
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132