

## Book Reviews

**Statistical Procedures in Food Research.** Edited by J. R. Piggott. Elsevier Applied Science Publishers, London, 1987. 415 pp. ISBN-85166-0321-1. Price: £50.00.

There has long been a need for a statistical textbook in the area of food research. This book does not quite fill that role, but should be essential reading for anyone in the area of food research. It covers most, if not all, of the statistical techniques that the researcher is likely to need, with plenty of references for further reading.

Each of the chapters is written by an expert in that particular area, and consequently the standard between them does vary and there is also some overlap. In particular, different authors assume different levels of prior knowledge. This does, however, mean that the book is very up to date.

It is dominated by reviews of various multivariate techniques, reflecting the nature of the majority of data in this field. It could perhaps have benefited from more emphasis, or even a separate chapter, on exploratory data analysis. This might perhaps give the researchers some guidelines as to what to look for before they embark on more complicated analyses.

On the whole the chapters are well written. In particular the sections on Experimental Design, Regression, Descriptive Multivariate Techniques, Generalised Procrustes Techniques and Partial Least Squares Regression, are very good. There are also chapters on Univariate Procedures, Response Surface Methods, Discriminant Analysis, Multidimensional Scaling and Cluster Analysis.

There is potentially a huge market for this book. It is to be hoped that the publishers can produce a cheaper version of it, so that the many people who need to read it might be encouraged to buy it.

**Neil Gains**