

Book Review

Photochemical and Photobiological Reviews, Vol. 7

edited by K. C. Smith; published by Plenum, New York, 1983; 373 pp.; price, \$59.50; ISBN 0-306-412896

It must be difficult to write a novel "Preface" after editing six volumes in a very successful series. However, Kendrick Smith does so because he is an unusual and very successful photobiologist who really lives the role of "photobiology is a truly multidisciplinary science . . . which requires the knowledgeable collaboration of biologists, chemists, engineers, mathematicians, physicians and physicists". Editing such volumes requires wide knowledge and diplomacy!

The series should be available in any library which purports to provide an up-to-date background in photobiology and its interface with photochemistry. This volume is typical of the previous six in containing chapters such as the following: how photoacoustic spectroscopy works and how it can be used in biology; what Cerenkov radiation is and why it is so generally useful and interesting (not only for astronauts' eye flashes and deoxyribonucleic acid damage); how it is that the bacterium *Micrococcus radiodurans* is so resistant to very high doses of ionizing and UV radiation; what the basic characteristics of electronic spectroscopy of photoreceptors are; what the effect of near UV on bacteria is; how to study circadian (daily) rhythms using a "nearly perfect" model organism, the mould *Neurospora*.

References are extensive and well edited for completeness. There is a short index. Don't look at the price, but feel the quality.

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