

---

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

**Reproductive Biology of Invertebrates: Vol. III, Accessory Sex Glands**, (eds) K. G. Adiyodi and R. G. Adiyodi (Published by Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., 66 Janpath, New Delhi 110 001), 1988, pp. 518, Price: Rs 450/-

The third volume on the Accessory Sex Glands, in the series devoted to the Biology of Reproduction of Invertebrates, is an excellent compilation of voluminous information, much needed for researchers. Interest in invertebrate reproduction is two-folded: (i) The group perhaps offers the maximum diversity in reproductive patterns and behaviour, and (ii) Information of any kind, related to reproduction of invertebrates, has direct application in the management and/or manipulation of innumerable beneficial or harmful species. In-depth and up-to-date information on a well-defined and little known aspect of reproduction such as the accessory sex glands, as detailed in the volume, is a commendable attempt by the contributors to give valuable material to the readers.

Though it is needless to emphasise the pivotal role played by the secretions of the accessory sex glands in the successful completion of the reproductive events of organisms—beginning with the formation of gametes and their transport down the duct system to achieving chance fertilization (externally or internally)—the extensive information on various aspects of the morphology, anatomy and physiology of sex glands of different groups of invertebrates dealt in the volume, further highlights their contribution in orchestrating the reproductive performance of individuals. That secretions produced by certain accessory sex glands of one sex of a species have an indispensable role to play in the reproductive activity of the opposite sex, adds to the knowledge known hitherto.

Valuable contributions on insects (excluded in previous volumes of the series) and on certain groups of organisms belonging to the minor phyla are a welcome addition to this volume and enhance the value of the book as a requisite reference for researchers. One is particularly impressed by the chapter dealing with insects which has exhaustive information, lucidly presented. It is also to be appreciated that all contributors have done a remarkable job of their treatment of the subject, several of them also attempting to present meaningful conclusions and evolutionary trends among

individuals belonging to the group dealt by them.

The rich bibliography appended with each chapter, is an invaluable resource and the volume is to be considered a priceless addition to Libraries catering to higher learning although a price of Rs. 450/- per copy, for a book published in India, is certainly high and thereby beyond the reach of several individuals. Perhaps a low-cost, reprinted Indian Edition would be more acceptable.

KATRE SHAKUNTALA

Department of Zoology,  
Bangalore University,  
Bangalore 560 056.

---

**A Farmers Primer on Growing Cowpea on Riceland** by R. K. Pandey (Published by Communications & Informations Department, International Rice Research Institute, P.O. Box 933, Manila, Philippines) 1987, pp. 218, Price: not given.

Increasing the production of pulses is an immediate objective of most of the developing countries. The pulses supply the much needed protein for the population. In addition, some of the pulses are fed to cattle as concentrates. The pulse crop/residues are also used for green manuring. Among the short duration grain legumes, cowpea is known to produce higher yield and is also more adaptable to varying soil and climatic conditions.

This book is an interesting and informative publication on cowpea. The subject matter is divided into 4 major sections, the first section deals with the cowpea crop, the second with cultivation of cowpea, the third on increasing yields and profits, and the last on fitting the crop into cropping systems.

The entire subject matter in each broad area has been further illustrated through appropriate figures and also notes on each. As one goes through the figures, the subject matter is fully understood. Illustration through figures is an added advantage compared to normal descriptive presentation of the subject matter. The book starts with introductory illustrations and finally gives full details of the production of crop in different cropping systems. The cultural practices start with planting to processing of the pods. Illustrations on yield-reducing factors like

insect pests, diseases, weeds and their control measures have been presented in a very interesting manner.

The book is useful for reference in all the libraries. It is equally useful to the students of agriculture, extension workers and the progressive

farmers. The book is also useful to the teachers in agricultural schools, colleges and Universities.

K. R. KULKARNI

Project Co-ordinator (Agronomy),  
University of Agril. Sciences,  
GKVK, Bangalore 560 065.

---

## NEWS

---

### PROTECTION OF LABORATORY ANIMALS: WHO PROGRAMME AWARDED A PRIZE!

The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction has received the annual prize of the Hildegard Doerenkamp/Gerhard Zbinden Foundation for Realistic Animal Protection.

The prize, which amounts to 60,000 DM, is awarded in recognition of the Special Programme's work in developing guidelines for the toxicological assessment of steroidal contraceptive drugs which have rationalized and reduced the number of laboratory animals required for toxicological testing. The guidelines emphasize the integral role of clinical assessment and post-registration surveillance,

together with the animal data in the risk assessment process.

The award was presented in Geneva to Dr Halfdan Mahler, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) by Professor Gerhard Zbinden, from the Institute of Toxicology, Federal Institute of Technology and University of Zurich, Switzerland, a leading figure in toxicology in Europe and Vice-President of the Foundation. (World Health Organization, Media Service - Press Release WHO/23 dated 4 July 1988; WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland).

---

### SUPERCONDUCTIVITY: FURTHER OUTLOOK WARMER

The arrival of 'high temperature' superconductors, capable of operating above the boiling point of liquid nitrogen (77 K) instead of having to be taken down to 4.2 K for use with liquid helium, makes many previously proposed applications appear much more practicable. Liquid nitrogen is cheap and easy to

handle. Ideas for their use range from frictionless bearings for navigational gyroscopes to cryogenic computers and smaller, more efficient radio aerials: (*Spectrum*, No. 211/1, 1988, p. 2-3, Published by: British Information Services, British High Commission, New Delhi 110 002).