

misconception, that seems to have affected the description in this book as well, is about the term homeotic genes and homeo-box: all genes that carry the homeo-box sequence are not homeotic genes. I think the elucidation of specific details of the cascade of gene activity (beginning with the maternally acting genes and followed by the gap, pair rule, segment polarity and homeotic genes in that order) that defines the embryonic segmentation and fate determination in *Drosophila* and other higher animals has been one of the exciting hallmark achievements of the combined use of molecular biology, genetics and developmental biology. This chapter does not convey the

specific information now available on this cascade of embryonic gene activity. The presentation in the book gives impression of a disjointed piecemeal information on certain genes and thus fails to carry the excitement to readers.

The chapter on genetic engineering is essentially confined to some of the basic recombinant DNA techniques (random-primed labelling deserved a place here). To justify the topic fully, it could have included examples where genetic engineering techniques have actually been employed as also the potential uses and hazards of these technologies.

While the book is generally well illustrated, the figures could be more attractive

and self-sufficient: this would allow a better comprehension to the reader. This text book has made a good beginning. It is to be expected that its subsequent editions will take care of the shortcomings of the type noted above so that it evolves into a popular and authoritative textbook that is badly needed by our student community.

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### Corrections

#### Bose-Einstein condensation in a dilute atomic vapour

N. Kumar

[*Curr. Sci.*, 1995, 69, 492-493]

Read '...the condensate size is "greater" than...' instead of '... "less" than...' in column 2, line 2 from the bottom of the article.

#### Evaluation of efficacy of bricks as geochemical monitor of atmospheric heavy metal pollution

Rohit Shrivastav, Sanjay Kumar Mathur, Shobhit Shrivastav, M. M. Shrivastav, Sahab Das and Satya Prakash

[*Curr. Sci.*, 1995, 69, 272-275]

The mean concentration of metals in Table 2 and Table 3 should read mg per 100 g instead of mg kg<sup>-1</sup>.