categorical 1617 genes necessary for normal embryogenesis and metamorphosis. Further, it is stated that the total number of genes in the *Drosophila* genome is 5000, quoting Raff and Kaufman (1983). As with many other references, this has not been listed in the Bibliography section. Presently the estimated total number of genes in *Drosophila* is approximately 13,000 and my search for information for the total number of genes needed for development of *Drosophila* was futile; but I am sure there is no exact number.

A positive point of this book is that it presents many of the older (some may like to call it 'classical') experiments and observations, which are no longer mentioned in the recent editions of books on genetics. However, these examples have not been properly utilized to explain the ideas or concepts which emerged out of such observations.

There are mistakes in the Glossary. Just to cite two examples, null allele has been defined as an allele whose protein product shows no histochemically detectable activity and a strong promoter as a promoter whose copy number is under strict control. The second is probably a mistake during publishing and actually defines a stringent plasmid. Kozak (of the 'Kozak sequence' fame) has been mentioned everywhere (text as well as in the glossary) as Konzak. Many terms have been used in the glossary and text which is not currently in use, e.g. trailer sequence to define 3′UTR in RNA and antitrailers as their corresponding DNA sequence. The terms Train and Antitrain have been used to describe the same in figure 16.8. Terms like these may have been used at some point of time, but a textbook should use the latest terminologies. The older terminologies could be however mentioned, as it is sometimes interesting to know how terminologies evolved.

Every chapter cites several references, especially in the section on 'Some useful reading hints'. Although this is a good feature of the book, the purpose of this section is lost as a number of them have not been listed in the Bibliography section.

These are but a few examples which make this book highly unsatisfactory for imparting basic concepts in genetics to teachers and students. The book obviously needs critical editing to correct factual, conceptual and other errors.

1. Strickberger, M. W., *Genetics*, Macmillan Publishing Co, USA, 1976, 2nd edn.
2. Griffiths, A. J. F., Miller, J. H., Suzuki, D. T., Lewontin, R. C. and Gelbart, W. M., *An Introduction to Genetic Analysis*, W H Freeman and Company, USA, 1993, 5th edn.
3. Gregory, T. R., *Ann. Bot.*, 2005, **95**, 133–146.

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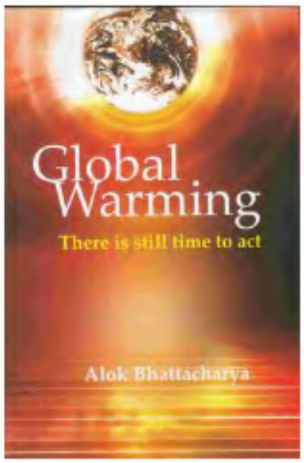

Global Warming: There is Still Time to Act. Alok Bhattacharya. Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110 002. 2008. 150 pp. Price: Rs 395.

As evident in the subtitle, this is not a book of gloomy predictions or dire warnings, but one that echoes the optimism of IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. And the note of optimism is backed by a road map to mitigate the adverse effects of global warming, which forms the last chapter of the book under review.

What sets the book apart is its viewpoint, which is that of a concerned, informed, and long-standing observer of the world. The author says in the preface to the book, 'I was fortunate to live in the developed world during the late sixties, around the time when their conspicuous, consumption-oriented lifestyles started becoming environmentally unsustainable. Being a student from a poor developing country, I used to feel a degree of discontent . . . I started making notes of those events and news items from the printed media which I felt showed the dark underbelly of their glamorous lifestyle. The habit continued long after I came back to India, although I did not know to what purpose these notes could serve'.

The increasing attention given to the phenomenon of climate change in mass media spurred the author to write, drawing on the notes gathered over the last four decades, to 'give a sense of direction to readers' as a pointer to the right course of action. Most books on global warming present or support the 'official position' with data and scientific explanations; some aim at dramatizing the issue to jolt readers into action; and a few present the contrary view, again marshalling either science or rhetoric. This book takes a historical perspective – in fact it is liberally peppered with statistics of all kinds, from speed of the camel to the amount needed to achieve MDGs, the millennium development goals – and comes to the conclusion that reviving villages should be a key component of India's response to the threat of climate change.

The first chapter sets the scene with a concise yet up-to-date account of the concept of global warming and its international ramifications. The second chapter covers climate change with reference to different habitats or ecosystems around the world. The next two chapters trace the roots of the problem, largely to the Industrial Revolution, whereas the one that follows shows how urbanization and the consumerist lifestyle have served to aggravate the problem to its current staggering dimensions. The last but one chapter talks about reviving the villages. The last chapter, although titled 'A road map for mitigation of global warming', is anything but that – instead, it is a miscellany of measures touching different sectors and exhorting a medley of agencies to act.

Given such an eclectic choice of topics and sources, the text is bound to ramble: if you are looking for a rigorous treatment of the subject, the book will not serve your purpose; if you are game for a leisurely walk with a studious yet cheerful companion, you will not be disappointed.

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