

BOOK REVIEW

KLOWDEN MARC J.: *PHYSIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS IN INSECTS*. Academic Press, An Elsevier Science Imprint, San Diego, San Francisco, New York, Boston, London, Sydney, Tokyo, 2002, vii+415 pp. ISBN 0-12-416264-9, price not stated.

This book offers a concise review not only of insect physiology but also of anatomy, morphology and the function of particular insect organs. It is divided into 12 chapters: Endocrine systems, Integumental systems, Developmental systems, Reproductive systems, Behavioural systems, Metabolic systems, Circulatory systems, Excretory systems, Respiratory systems, Molecular systems, Nervous systems and Communication systems which are followed by a comprehensive Glossary and Index. Text is illustrated by many well chosen pictures, mostly taken from various textbooks or journal articles.

All chapters have roughly the same basic arrangement. The description of the anatomy and histology of a particular organ system is followed by descriptions of functions, with specifica-

tions of all known modifications. The data are mostly supplemented by detailed biochemical information. For example, in the chapter Metabolic systems, the chemical structure, mechanism of function and diagrams of metabolism of digestive enzymes are presented. The same is applied to the chapter on Endocrine systems and others. Each chapter ends with a comprehensive bibliography.

The book includes compact and very well arranged pictures. It is written clearly and concisely, and is very intelligible. One is surprised, how much information it is possible to include in 400 pages. There is no doubt this excellent textbook will be a basic handbook for several generations of entomologists, not only in English-speaking countries. This outstanding guide on general entomology should not be missing from either the libraries of students, or professional entomologists.

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