
BOOK REVIEW

Water Toxicology by V. V. Metelev, A. I. Kanaev and N. G. Dzasokhova, (Amerind Publishing Co., Pvt. Ltd.), 1983, pp. 216, Price not known.

This handsome volume provides, rather precisely, a review on a subject of current interest, heavily directed toward theory, general information, methodologies employed and design of experiments regarding water toxicological studies.

The principal aim of the book appears to be to present, in a single volume, all the investigations carried out mainly in Soviet countries. Only in very few instances some comparisons have been made to other works from the rest of the world.

The book gives a clear, concise and upto date general account in its first part, relating to classification and characterization of sewers and various pathways of pollutants and their effects on fishes. The combined effects of the pollutants (synergisms and antagonisms) along with the approaches for designing such experiments are comprehensively presented. The condition for the reversible nature of the pollutants and other methodological problems of water toxicology are also well presented.

The second part of the book deals with the toxicity

of specific pollutants, (both organic and inorganic) to aquatic organisms with suitable examples based on bioassay, with the derived LC 50 values. Toxic substances of animal and plant origin, such as alkaloids, saponin, resin and resin acids and their effects on the aquatic environment, have also been touched upon. The effects of pesticides, detergents, general aromatics and heterocyclic compounds are very briefly presented. A glaring omission pertains to the effects of petroleum hydrocarbons.

The quality of the translation is admirable and the printing is virtually free from errors. The usefulness of the book would, however, be substantially increased by the provision of an adequate subject (and author) index. The book covers, in greater detail, basic information about aquatic toxicology. It deserves to be used and read, as a resource book, by every one interested in water pollution research.

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