

It is the *system* to which the book under review caters that is under criticism, rather than the book *per se*. Within its limitations, it is an honest effort, certainly better than most other books of its type. The figures are reasonably clear, as is the language. There are not too many places in which trivial algebraic simplification is written out in detail. The author has taken care to avoid errors and misinformation to the extent possible – although there are passages that either beg the question (example: Sec. 16.5 on the zeroth law of thermodynamics) or are too obtuse to be of any help in understanding the matter under discussion (examples: Sec. 8.6 on holography, Sec. 11.18.1 on light emitting diodes). On the whole, one may regard the book as a mild form of medicine that may alleviate some of the symptoms of the malady pervading the system, without attempting to cure the illness itself.

But is there no satisfactory solution to the dilemma itself – namely, the problem of striking a balance between basic principles and applications in a highly time-constrained curriculum? This reviewer believes that there does exist a reasonable solution (modulo adjustments of detail depending upon the actual circumstances). When one has to make an absolute choice between a basic principle that has very wide applicability, and a specific application whose technical details are in any case too complex to be dealt with satisfactorily in an elementary course, the correct choice is virtuous and clear! A careful exposition of the former, with the help of simple illustrations, would stand the student in good stead in his subsequent career, both educational and professional. To paraphrase a thoughtful colleague's remark, the student would then have been

empowered rather than bedazzled, and that's a good thing to be.

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Ecology and Sociobiology of Indian Primates. M. D. Parthasarathy, Dynaram Publications, 20, 1st Floor, South Cross Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore 560 004. 119pp. Price: Rs 100, \$10.

It is a small monograph on the ecology and sociobiology of some Indian (rather south Indian) primates, written lucidly after proper scientific understanding of primates. The monograph, appropriately illustrated with self-explanatory line drawings, provides a unique overview on many hitherto unknown social behaviour in primates. It has covered the different categories of behaviour and provides a detailed account on loris, the bonnet macaques, lion-tailed monkey, Hanuman langur and Nilgiri langurs. The book provides a synthesis of the most current information and theoretical significance. The language used is not very difficult or complicated even for a learner primate researcher. It is a monumental piece of work which will be of immense interest and use to diverse readers specially for researchers, the academic community and scholars alike for comprehending primate eco-ethology. In my opinion, it is a commendable job by M. D. Parthasarathy which will guide young ethologists.

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Atlas of Paleogene Ostracodes of Rajasthan Basin. *Paleontol. Indica*, No. 4. Anil Bhandari. KDM Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehradun 248 195. 157 pp. Price not known.

For the first time there has been a sincere effort to prepare an atlas of Paleogene ostracodes of Rajasthan basin. An exhaustive study of the surface outcrop samples and subsurface well samples (from 5 wells) were examined by the author. One hundred and twenty four species of which eleven taxa are in open nomenclature are included in the work, illustrated excellently in the plates.

Ostracodes are mainly utilized for environmental interpretations and their scope for dating of rocks is limited due to their benthic habitat and strong response to environmental changes. The author could have included a chapter on environment in this publication.

The author has contributed an excellent work more of which must be coming in the near future. The data available from different sedimentary basins are enormous and dedicated workers in ONGC must contribute to this field. Workers in India and abroad are awaiting anxiously for more atlases and if possible, a stereo-atlas similar to that published by Leicester University, UK. The stereo-atlas will clear the confusions in taxonomy, since examining the stereo-pairs under ordinary stereoscope is easier than going through actual specimens or holotypes, etc., Bhandari's work is highly appreciated and will benefit a lot of research workers in this field.

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