

BOOK REVIEWS

est in raptors. The only real drawback with this book is that it cannot be carried into the field. Perhaps, by compiling the plates and photographs with some brief text and identification pointers, a truly invaluable and comprehensive field guide can be brought out.

The eight appendices deal largely with conservation issues and the global status of Indian raptors, and are informative. The bibliography is handily divided into 'General references' and 'Species references', and these together span 50 pages, representing a refreshingly thorough and in-depth quality of background research. The index combines both Latin and English names, and although dealing only with the matter within the individual species accounts, is easy to use.

Highly comprehensive and well written, with high-quality colour photographs and illustrations, this is a landmark contribution to Indian ornithological knowledge, and as an all-encompassing reference on Indian raptors, will almost certainly never be surpassed. A must for the serious amateur and field ornithologist.

UMESH SRINIVASAN

*Post-Graduate Program in Wildlife
Biology and Conservation,
Wildlife Conservation Society and
National Centre for Biological Sciences,
GKVK Campus,
Bangalore 560 065, India
e-mail: umesh@ncbs.res.in*

Techniques for Molecular Biology



Techniques for Molecular Biology. D. Tagu and C. Moussard (eds). Science Publishers, An Imprint of Edenbridge Ltd., British Isles, P.O. Box 699, Enfield, New Hampshire 03748, USA. 2006. 277 pp. Price: US \$45.

This is an unusual book, because I could not make out the target audience for whom it was written. The editors omitted the usual Preface and left us with no option except to make our own educated guess about those who might possibly benefit from this work.

There are 57 profiles covered under eight sections. These profiles are summaries of various techniques. We were not told on what basis these sections were created and various profiles grouped together. I could not figure out the scientific logic behind the groupings. The profiles are unclear and in many places totally wrong. For example, on p. 16, in the bottom

panel (these are not labelled as figures for some reason), the legend says that the protruding ends are 3'-OH ends. But the line drawing shows protruding 5'-P.

In profile 11 we have the following statement: 'The Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I isolated from *E. coli* is capable, using the complementary strand as template, of adding nucleotides to a 3'-OH end of DNA, which appears when one of the strands of a DNA molecule is cleaved'. This statement implies that every *E. coli* makes Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase. The same profile also has the following: 'This enzyme also has a 5'-exonuclease activity that eliminates nucleotides on the 5'-P side of the cleavage'. This is incorrect. Klenow fragment generated by subtilisin cleavage lacks the 5'-exonuclease activity of DNA polymerase I. Such mistakes are abundant in the book.

There are vague statements, such as the one given below, in several places. The vectors that could carry large inserts are called 'large vectors'.

I do not recommend this book for anyone, unless someone wants to test his/her capability to spot mistakes.

K. DHARMALINGAM

*School of Biotechnology,
Madurai Kamaraj University,
Madurai 625 021, India
e-mail: kdharmalingam@vsnl.com*

MEETINGS/SYMPOSIUMS/SEMINARS

International Conference on Terrestrial Planets: Evolution through time

Date: 22–25 January 2008
Place: Ahmedabad, India

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) will hold an international conference on the above theme to provide a forum for discussion on the present status and future perspectives in utilizing modern geochemical and isotope techniques to understand the origin and evolution of the solar system, the chronology and causes of major events on Earth, past climate, and dynamics of various reservoirs in Earth. The conference is organized as a part of PRL's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

For further information please refer to the conference website: <http://www.prl.res.in/~djconf08>

National Workshop on Rapid Aneuploidy Diagnosis by FISH

Date: 20–25 August 2007
Place: AIIMS, New Delhi

Contact: Dr Ashutosh Halder
Department of Reproductive Biology
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi 110 029, India
Tel: (0)11-26588500/26588700
ext. 4211 (O); ext. 3694 (R)
09313309579 (mobile); Fax: 011-26588663
Email: ashutoshhalder@yahoo.co.in
<http://www.aiims.ac.in/conf/FISH.html> or
<http://aiims.ac.in/repbiol.html> then FISH or