

Y. Shahak and G. Hauska have specifically discussed several physiological and biochemical aspects of sulphide-quinone oxidoreductase, a flavoenzyme that belongs to the large disulphide oxidoreductase family. The chapter provides a critical discussion of the phylogenetic scenario for the descent of the enzyme from a common ancestor. With a more or less similar approach, N. Frigaard and D. A. Bryant summarize the available genome sequence data of few strains of green sulphur bacteria and involvement of genes for the oxidation of sulphur compounds. Part III concludes with a chapter by L. Chan *et al.* highlighting genomic and proteomic studies on sulphur oxidation in *Chlorobium* species.

Part IV comprises of four chapters emphasizing on the ecology of phototrophic sulphur bacteria, sulphur metabolism and possible biotechnological applications and environmental management of phototrophic organisms. Habitats, natural populations and biochemical significance of phototrophic sulphur bacteria are well reviewed by J. Overmann in the first chapter. Acquisition of sulphur in aquatic ecosystem, its subsequent assimilation and sulphur availability as a factor in the evolution, succession and distribution of algae are reviewed by M. Giordano, *et al.* in another chapter. The next chapter by F. Zhao *et al.* focuses on the role of sulphur in plant productivity, sulphur nutrition in the agroecosystem and food quality. On the other hand, T. J. Hurse *et al.* describe the criteria for the selection of suitable phototrophic bacteria for their application for biological sulphide removal during wastewater management in the last chapter.

Part V, the last part of the volume, contains two chapters, one by Alexander Prange *et al.* describing a specific method, namely X-ray absorption spectroscopy as a tool for the detection of sulphur compounds in phototrophic organisms and the other by Meyer and Fricker that highlights the specific technique, namely thiol-based redox imaging in plants.

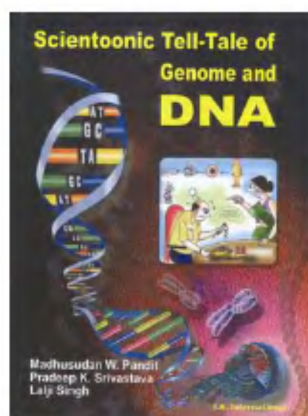
The book in general provides a comprehensive and integrative knowledge of sulphur biology in phototrophic organisms. Most of the chapters in the book are interdisciplinary in character dealing with physiology, biochemistry and molecular biology of sulphur and sulphur-related compounds. The book is, therefore, useful for students and researchers in chemistry, plant and microbial physiology, and molecular biology. It is spe-

cially designed for advanced level graduate students working in the area of photosynthesis and bacterial bioenergetics. An insight into the molecular biology, genomics and proteomics of sulphur biology as highlighted in some of the chapters provides clues for genetic manipulation to generate transgenics with useful traits. The book, therefore, is useful for students working in agro-biotechnology. Several chapters are written with fundamentals of sulphur chemistry and biology in simple language that possibly could be used as textbook material for graduate-level students.

Sulphur compounds play a very crucial role during stress adaptation in phototrophic organisms. Currently many researchers are working on thiol-based stress signalling in green plants in India and elsewhere. Although the concept of stress signalling is highlighted in some of the chapters, the book should have included, in my opinion, one or two chapters specifically in this area. However, this does not detract from the knowledge this book provides us. I strongly recommend this book to libraries of universities and research institutions around the world.

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**Scientoonic Tell-Tale of Genome and DNA.** M. W. Pandit, P. K. Srivastava and Lalji Singh. I. K. International Publishing House Pvt Ltd, S-25, Green Park Extension, Uphaar Cinema Market, New Delhi 110 016. 2009. 171 pp. Price: Rs 995.

When I read the title and agreed to do a review of this book, I had visions of a book on the lines of a set of book(lets)

from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press published in the nineties. These were called *The Cartoon Guide to Genetics*, *Amazing Schemes Within Your Genes*, *Cells Are Us*, *DNA is Here to Stay*, etc. Cartoons in these books explained scientific concepts with clarity and were meant for the young student as well as for the older layman.

This 'scientoonic tell tale' is a set of casual cartoons of insipid humour with no scientific value, not inspiring nor educational. There is only the pretence of educating ordinary folks... nothing in the text is useful really to the educated layman, although there may be some stray archival information and the cartoons have really nothing to do with the text.

Most laymen interested in being scientifically informed are better off reading the regular Thursday columns in *The Hindu* that present hard scientific information well.

The quality and content of this book is not worth a specific review of what it describes in different 'sections', since the matter inside is considerably trivial and the language of presentation is not redeeming.

In the acknowledgements it is mentioned that 'Several websites have provided us with significant information and thanking individual creators is neither practical nor possible'. The authors seem to dismiss in this one line the fact that they need to acknowledge clearly their source of figures. While it was possible for them to sift through and borrow enough pictures from sites, they do not find it easy to credit their source. Could they not have put the urls to the picture titles as a way of acknowledgement? Someone is bound to call this plagiarism, if he/she prefers to use technical language. Finally, the content or quality of the final product is no way worth the price. I do not recommend this material for any type of readership.

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