

PREFACE

Characterizing the genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying natural variation of circadian clocks remains a challenging task in any organism. Thematic Volume 99 contains three comprehensive reviews dealing with these issues of Natural variation and clocks.

Chapter 1 assesses the important roles fungi play in ecosystems on earth and explores how fungi, such as *Neurospora*, can serve as an important model for understanding the ecological role of natural variation in fungal circadian clocks. Chapter 2 describes how a small mosquito, *Wyeomyia smithii*, that lives only in the water-filled leaves of a carnivorous plant over a wide geographic range, can be used to explore the genetic and evolutionary basis of photoperiodism. Chapter 3 looks at the evidence for Natural variation in circadian rhythms and sleep in humans.

I am most grateful to the authors for their excellent reviews.

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Abstract

Three chapters in this volume provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge regarding the genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying natural variation of circadian clocks. Chapter 1, by David A. Green, reviews the roles of fungi in ecosystems and explores how fungi, such as *Neurospora*, can serve as an important model for understanding the ecological role of natural variation in fungal circadian clocks. Chapter 2, by David A. Green, describes how a small mosquito, *Wyeomyia smithii*, that lives only in the water-filled leaves of a carnivorous plant over a wide geographic range, can be used to explore the genetic and evolutionary basis of photoperiodism. Chapter 3, by David A. Green, looks at the evidence for Natural variation in circadian rhythms and sleep in humans.