

## PREFACE

Biological processes imply a mutual recognition of the systems involved, whereby the information stored in a system (or systems) is read by the other(s). Their comprehensive study must deal with both aspects of the problem: the information and its recognition.

Quantum-mechanical research has yielded, over the years, an astonishing wealth of data on biomolecules or their submolecular components, and the time has now come for a detailed inspection of the problems associated with the recognition processes. The necessary theoretical tools have been developed, and the availability of fast, large-capacity computers, coupled with efficient methods of data handling, ensure that the study of many interesting problems, postponed in the past, is now feasible.

Our efforts have been directed towards a unified presentation of the theory, a survey of the present, and a predictive look at the future. They will have succeeded if they encourage new work on this fascinating problem.

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