

## PREFACE

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Some years have passed since the seven volume series *Comprehensive Molecular Insect Science* was published. One volume, *Insect Endocrinology*, was dedicated to my favorite field of research. The manuscripts for that volume were written in 2003 and 2004 and of the many references, the great majority were from 2003 and earlier. The series did very well and chapters were cited quite frequently, although, because of the price and the inability to purchase single volumes, the set was purchased mainly by libraries. In 2010 I was approached by Academic Press to think about bringing two major fields up to date with volumes that could be purchased singly, and would therefore be available to faculty members, scientists in industry and government, postdoctoral researchers, and interested graduate students. I chose *Insect Endocrinology* for one volume because of the remarkable advances that have been made in that field in the past half dozen years.

With the advice of several outside advisors, we chose the central chapters from the original series plus two additional chapters on insect peptide hormones. The volume includes articles on the juvenile hormones, circadian organization of the endocrine system, ecdysteroid chemistry and biochemistry, as well as new chapters on insulin-like peptides and the peptide hormone Bursicon. The original chapters have either been revised with additional material published in the last few years or for many, completely rewritten. All of the authors are among the leaders in their fields of interest and have worked hard to contribute the best chapters possible. I believe that this volume is among the very best I have edited in the past half century, and that it will be of great help to senior and beginning researchers in the fields covered. Further, it is competitively priced so that individuals and laboratories can have their own copies.

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