

PREFACE

The discovery of hormones and receptors in insects has provided important tools for the molecular biologist in directing the expression of a specific gene in a mammalian system by using an insect marker that is foreign to the mammalian cell. An often used strategy is to locate the ecdysone receptor in front of a specific gene and turn on the expression of that gene with ecdysone. More importantly, the field of insect biochemistry and molecular biology has made stunning progress. This volume collects manuscripts on insect hormones and receptors.

The first review is by J. W. Truman on "Hormonal Control of Insect Ecdysis: Endocrine Cascades for Coordinating Behavior with Physiology." "Biosynthesis of Molting Hormone" is offered by L. I. Gilbert and J. T. Warren. S. R. Palli, R. E. Hormann, U. Schlattner and M. Lezzi report on "Ecdysteroid Receptors and their Applications in Agriculture and Medicine." In terms of X-ray determined structure, I. M. L. Billas and D. Moras present: "Ligand-Binding Pocket of the Ecdysone Receptor." Y. Nakagawa describes: "Non steroidal Ecdysone Agonists." "Juvenile Hormone Molecular Actions and Interactions during Development of *Drosophila melanogaster*" is contributed by E. M. Berger and E. B. Dubrovsky. Finally, I. Claeys, J. Poels, G. Simonet, V. Franssens, T. Van Loy, M. B. Van Hiel, B. Breugelmans and J. Vanden Broeck offer: "Insect Neuropeptide and Peptide Hormone Receptors: Current Knowledge and Future Directions."

Preparation of thematic volumes, although infrequent, allows for the collection of manuscripts covering the recent progress in exciting areas of vitamin and hormone research. Availability of this Serial on-line should increase access.

Once again, the Editor-in-Chief is grateful to Academic Press/Elsevier Science for excellent cooperation in mounting this continuing source of up-to-date review information.

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