
Preface

This book is intended for the phycologist, rather than the chemist or biochemist, and the mechanisms of photosynthesis have not been treated in detail. Pigments represent one of many properties of interest to the phycological taxonomist, and in earlier days seemed to provide simple rules for assigning algae to their respective classes, as exemplified by many textbooks of biology. Now, however, these rules have lost their precision because of the many exceptions that have arisen recently – in particular, the different forms of chlorophyll *c* currently known, the abnormal pigments produced in some members of a class through symbiosis, and the occasional occurrence of a pigment previously considered highly specific in its distribution (e.g., the rare reports of peridinin in red algae). Accordingly, I hope that this book will be helpful to phycological taxonomists interested in pigments as one of a number of properties used in classifying algae.

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