

Preface

Since the publication of "Biology of the Rhodophyta" by Peter Dixon in 1973, red algal research has greatly advanced and diversified. Recent findings in many areas have been accomplished using new technologies which have provided insights beyond the realm of possibility seventeen years ago. This book is designed to summarize current knowledge of the field and provide a much needed reference for researchers and teachers concerned with phycology, aquatic biology, limnology, oceanography and plant evolution.

The presentation is by levels of organization, starting with cells and constituents, followed by organisms and their growth and reproduction, ecology, systematics and evolution. This theme complements that of recently published books on other algal divisions. It was not possible to cover every aspect of red algal biology, and this book does not contain applied topics. The scope and length of coverage among the chapters varies so that both traditional and newly emerging areas could be included.

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