

For the majority of organisms two key environmental components are light and time. Biologically, time has various scales: the annual cycle of seasons, the daily cycle of the sun or the potentially rapid cycle of cell division. What is apparently fundamental to many organisms is the ability to respond in a manner predictive of time. The time-dependent changes in physiology, morphology and ecology are responsive to various environmental cues, most prominent of which is light. A variety of microbial and plant species can harvest light for photosynthesis, but the ability to perceive various forms of light is fundamental to a variety of other biological responses in many if not all organisms. This volume, which concentrates primarily, but not exclusively, on micro-organisms both prokaryotic and eukaryotic, provides a series of chapters which explore various aspects of the underlying biology, providing a wide-ranging and up-to-date review of this fundamental area of biology that is currently advancing at an exhilarating rate.

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