

This introductory account of the algae incorporates the modern work with the classical taxonomic, morphological, and life-cycle approach adopted in most textbooks.

The core of the book is based on the systematics of the algae, around which is built additional material on the ecology, cytology, biochemistry, metabolism, and morphology of the algae. The last decade has seen important advances in studies of the fine structure and biochemistry of algae, and many of the new concepts that have been introduced into phycology are incorporated in the text. The book adopts a modified version of the systematic framework proposed by Tyge Christensen in 1966. Each important order and family is represented by a well-known species whose life cycle is described in detail, together with other known material. There are many illustrations and photographs, including composite drawings of the life cycles of most of the important groups. A list of references to original articles is given at the end of each chapter.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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