

Amphibian Biology

INEVITABLY, overlap occurs when dealing with separate aspects such as behaviour, development and anatomy, that relate to the same function. In this volume, the design was to avoid undue overlap but not to eliminate it altogether. It was felt that although the various chapters were co-ordinated editorially, each should be able to be read as an entity without excessive referral to other parts of the book.

The first chapter provides the morphological background for the rest of the book by describing the anatomy of the amphibian endocrine system. Following chapters treat the various endocrine systems in terms of their function and development as related to particular aspects of amphibian life. Three chapters deal with different aspects of reproduction, including reproductive cycles, breeding behaviour, and the development of secondary sexual characters. Two chapters have a strong developmental emphasis, with treating the role of hormones in metamorphosis and dealing with hormonal regulation of growth. Three chapters deal with hormonal regulation of various day-to-day physiological processes such as metabolism, osmoregulation and colour change. The book closes with an account of the role of hormones in the immune system of amphibians.

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