

A SOURCEBOOK FOR BIOLOGICAL THEORY<sup>1</sup>

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Where would you go to find literature on "Lamarckism"? The lepidomorial theory? Liebig's law? This is a surprisingly useful book, up-to-date (1980 references) and with an intelligent choice of both topics and references. There are over a thousand entries, alphabetized, a large proportion of them in the evolutionary half of biology. A random page-opening shows the following sequence of entries: Clementsian organismic view, climatic selection, climatic stability theory, climax, climbing theory (of sap ascent), clonal selection theory, closed-program behavior, cluster clone theory (of mitochondrial origin), clutch size, coacervate formation theory. About two to five references accompany each entry which is not a cross-reference; the entries are mercifully left undefined so as not to impart a false flavor of consensus. (However, the mercy is strained for those without an adequate library.)

One has to know what to look up, and no two people will hit on the same words every time. While such individuality is a major disadvantage of "key-word" indexing, it is less critical here. Indeed, the whole book can usefully be browsed to have an overview of theoretically important concepts. Historical concepts are entered only if of some current interest.

This book should be made known to all graduate students; there is nothing like it.

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<sup>1</sup>Dictionary of Theoretical Concepts in Biology, by Keith E. Roe and Richard G. Frederick (1981). Metuchen, New Jersey (P.O. Box 656), Scarecrow Press. xli + 267 pp. \$17.50.