devised an excellent format for these chapters which enables the reader to compile easily his or her own survey of any particular aspect of reproduction across the invertebrate phyla.

The final volume of the treatise will attempt to synthesize the different asspects of reproductive physiology and ecology. Although in principle the preparation of such a synthetic work at the completion of an extensive survey is ideal, in this instance I think the need for a general synthesis is too urgent for further delay. It is precisely for the lack of such a work that many courses in developmental and invertebrate biology ignore or treat only cursorily the physiological and ecological aspects of reproduction. It is likely that by the time the last segment of this series appears the earlier volumes will be out of date (one of the chapters in volume 1 contains no reference beyond 1969), and this eventuality could lead to a self-perpetuating round of Recent Advances that would threaten to delay indefinitely the preparation of the summary volume. I urge the editors to reconsider their timetable for this project with a view to producing the general synthesis as soon as possible.

Volume 1 of Reproduction of Marine Invertebrates deals with reproduction in free-living acoelomates and pseudocoelomates (except the Entoprocta, which presumably will be presented in a later volume). Giese and Pearse have contributed a lucid 50-page introduction discussing basic events in, terminology of, and factors that influence the reproduction of marine invertebrates. This chapter sets the stage for the ten invited contributions and provides a valuable concise summary of the methods for assessing reproductive activity and factors that regulate gametogenesis and spawning.

Generally, the contributed chapters are well written, concise but complete, and excellently documented. I found the chapters on cnidarians and ctenophorans exceptionally valuable. Both are well balanced, readable, and clearly illustrated. The Cnidaria are a large, diverse phylum that exhibits a complex array of sexual and asexual patterns of reproduction. R. D. Campbell has sorted carefully through a vast literature and distilled a clear, provocative presentation that features an incisive analysis of the cellular mechanisms involved in their development. H. D. Pianka has adopted a similar approach in discussing the ctenophorans. Much of the information in this chapter has

not been published before and provides the key to several long-standing riddles of ctenophoran reproduction. Most important, Pianka clearly resolves the mechanism of gamete release and unveils what is to my knowledge one of the most spectacular examples of oogenesis in the animal kingdom.

W. D. Hummon's chapter on the Gastrotricha is the only contribution that seriously explores reproduction from the vantage point of an evolutionary biologist. His preliminary assessment of the reproductive strategies of these animals points the way to exciting and important future research not only on gastrotrichs but on other groups of marine invertebrates as well.

This book, like any, has its minor annoyances. Many of the sections should have been illustrated more judiciously. Chapters were submitted apparently over a five-year period, and in some instances more recent references are omitted. As is to be expected in a large project involving many specialists, there is unevenness in presentation. For example, the chapters on flatworms and nemerteans deal extensively with gametogenesis and allot only minimal coverage to embryogenesis and larval biology. This deficiency is offset in the review of flatworm spermiogenesis, however, by a summary of important work on the unique microtubular organizations that occur in these spermatozoa.

I am confident that Reproduction of Marine Invertebrates will serve invertebrate, reproductive, environmental, and evolutionary biologists for years to come as the essential reservoir of information and analysis in this multidisciplinary field.

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Member-at-Large of the Section Committee: Richard D. Grundy

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