

ate and control the nucleation of the mineral and the crystal form. Chapters 2 and 3 examine the diversity of the mineral forms, and the role of matrix macromolecules in the process, in a very interesting and sophisticated way. These chapters, along with the three final chapters, on nonskeletal functions in biomineralization, environmental influences on biomineralization, and the evolution of biomineralization, are worth the price of the book by themselves. The authors give the most coherent analysis of the evolutionary development of biominerals this reviewer has had the pleasure to read. The intervening chapters on the specific systems are well done and beautifully illustrated. The emphasis is on matrix components and their ultrastructural distribution, and on the nature of the mineral phase. I think it is fair to say that I appreciated these chapters more because of having read the comparable chapters in Simkiss and Wilbur.

Both of these books are major feats of scholarship, and they are truly complementary. Both belong on the bookshelves of every scientist interested in biomineralization.

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