yolk-rich eggs in so much of the world's ocean, however, shows that larvae that travel some distance from the parent are advantageous in many situations and suggests that dispersal may be their chief role. (See also Alan J. Kohn and Frank E. Perron's 1994 monograph *Life History and Biogeography: Patterns in Conus* [Clarendon Press; 114 pp., $56] for a demonstration that geographic range within a single well-studied snail genus is significantly correlated with mode of larval development and with length of planktonic larval period.) Finally, in yet another shock to our preconceptions about the supposedly monotonous deep-sea environment, reproductive cycles in many abyssal species have proven to be decidedly seasonal, apparently being cued by variations in detritus from surface-water productivity. As with larval modes, the most intriguing fact is the within-site variability: co-occurring taxa may or may not show seasonal cycles, presumably owing to details of their nutritional biology that deserve much additional study.

Perhaps the only glaring lack in these volumes is in genetics, which receives only passing mention but could cast much light on the evolutionary consequences of alternative reproductive modes, hydrodynamical patterns, and larval behaviors. For example, which of the many details of hydrography that shape short-term dispersal patterns have sufficient stability to influence genetic population structures? Do the non-feeding larvae of the deep sea yield rates of gene flow sufficient to homogenize populations to the degree often maintained in species in shallow-water species having prolonged, feeding larval stages? These books are valuable not only as summary statements of our new understanding of these important aspects of larval biology but as a platform for the next generation of exciting questions in these fields.

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Books Received

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Bioelectrochemistry IV. Nerve Muscle Function—Bioelectrochemistry, Mechanisms, Bioenergetics, and Control. Bruno Andrea Melandri, Giulio Milazzo, and Martin Blank, Eds. Plenum, New York, 1994. x, 376 pp., illus. $115. NATO ASI Series A, vol. 267. From an institute, Erice, Italy, Oct.-Nov. 1991.

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