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## **Vignettes: Confidings of Herpetology**

By the late 1980s . . . scientists who work with frogs slowly and cautiously began sharing their tales of frog-finding difficulty with their colleagues. Among herpetologists, particularly those who work in the field more than in laboratories, being able to find amphibians traditionally has been a matter of pride. If a graduate student returned from a summer field trip complaining about not being able to find animals, colleagues and teachers assumed the student was not very competent. So when the professionals began sharing their experiences of not finding frogs, it was almost cathartic, like releasing some horrible family secret.

> —Kathryn Phillips, in Tracking the Vanishing Frogs: An Ecological Mystery (St. Martin's Press; Penguin paperback)

Once, I was a member of a prestigious panel of herpetologists meeting to decide the future of herpetology. There were about eight of us sitting around a conference table. Glancing around, I noticed that about two-thirds of us had a missing digit. Herpetologists cannot resist picking up venomous snakes. Sooner or later, most manage to get bitten, and they often lose part of a digit in the process. I felt right at home in that group, even though I didn't lose mine to a snake (how were they to know?).

—Eric R. Pianka, in The Lizard Man Speaks (University of Texas Press)

now been crystallized, and a good number of three-dimensional structural models are presented. Schematic representations of the receptors are included as well, creating an immediate impression of the type of signal transduction that is likely to occur (a notable deficiency here concerns the TNF receptor family, for which a number of transducing molecules have emerged since publication). Detailed descriptions of several knockout phenotypes are also presented.

This book meets an obvious need. Many cytokine workers immediately find themselves out of their depth when the conversation (or the impulse of research) turns to a factor with which they have no hands-on experience. For them the Guidebook sets forth facts of a solid character that are not likely to change in the near term. This makes the book extremely attractive and well worth buying.

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## **Reprints of Books Previously Reviewed**

Early Quantum Electrodynamics. A Source Book. Arthur I. Miller. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1995. Paper, \$24.95. Reviewed 265, 1605

Galileo At Work. His Scientific Biography. Stillman Drake. Dover, New York, 1995. Paper, \$14.95. Reviewed 206, 439 (1979).

Polymers. The Origins and Growth of a Science. Herbert Morawetz. Dover, New York, 1995. Paper, \$11.95. Reviewed 231, 167 (1986).

The Quark and the Jaguar. Adventures in the

Simple and the Complex. Murray Gell-Mann. Freeman, New York, 1995. Paper, \$15.95. Reviewed 264, 1480 (1994).

## **Books Received**

Advances in Linear Logic. Jean-Yves Girard, Yves Lafont, and Laurent Regnier, Eds. Cambridge University Press. New York, 1995. viii, 389 pp. Paper, \$44.95. London Mathematical Society Lecture Note, 222.

Advances in Mucosal Immunology. Jiri Mestecky et al., Eds. Plenum, New York, 1995. 2 vols. Part A, xliv pp. + pp. 1-698, illus. Part B, iv pp. + pp. 699-1680, illus. \$245. Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, vol. 371. From a congress, Prague, Aug. 1992.

Biology of the Sialic Acids. Abraham Rosenberg, Ed. Plenum, New York, 1995. xvi, 378 pp., illus. \$95.

Biology Takes Form. Animal Morphology and the German Universities, 1800-1900. Lynn K. Nyhart. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1995. xiv, 414 pp., illus., + plates. \$75 or £59.95; paper, \$27.50 or £21.95. Sci-

ence and Its Conceptual Foundations.

Causal Cognition. A Multidisciplinary Debate. Dan Sperber, David Premack, and Ann James Premack, Eds. Clarendon (Oxford University Press), New York, 1995. xx. 670 pp., illus. \$115. Symposia of the Fyssen Foundation. From a symposium, St-Germain-en-Laye, Jan. 1993.

Cell Architecture and Metabolic Channeling. Judit Ovádi. Springer-Verlag, New York, and Landes, Austin, TX, 1995 (distributor, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL).