

origins. General methods for the use of budding yeast are provided (Plevani) as well as procedures for the biochemical purification of replication complexes such as the origin recognition complex (Diffley). *Xenopus* has also been invaluable, in many ways complementing yeast work, and one chapter provides protocols for preparing and using various egg extracts to allow replication analysis *in vitro* (Walter & Newport). Several chapters discuss purification and assay of factors involved in the elongation step of replication, such as DNA polymerases (Wang), polymerase accessory proteins (Hübscher), DNA helicases (Bean & Matson) and lagging-strand activities (Bauer & Melendy). Procedures for mapping replication origins are provided (Gerbi) as are methods for the detailed probing of interactions between replication proteins and DNA (Borowiec). Additional chapters give details of the SV40 replication system (Bullock) and telomerase purification (Harrington).

This book should be very useful for any group interested in DNA replication. The protocols (over 120 in total) are clearly written and provide a level of detail that tends to be left out of the primary literature. It is worth mentioning that

the protocols are set in context with background reviews, but these do not constitute the main attraction of the book, given that the field is hardly under-reviewed. Considering the rate of progress in replication work at the moment, it is difficult for a book like this to be comprehensive and some aspects are under-represented. So while there is good coverage of biochemical methods relating to individual replication proteins, there is rather less emphasis on cell biological and genetic methods relevant to replication work. In any case, with current developments there will soon be a case for a second volume, but perhaps next time the publishers can provide a spiral binding for a book to be used at the bench!

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Books received

Protein Evolution. László Patthy. Blackwell Science, Oxford. 1999. Pp. 228. Price £24.95, paperback. ISBN 0 632 04774 7.

Endless Forms — Species and Speciation. Daniel J. Howard and Stewart H. Berlocher (eds). Oxford University Press, Oxford. 1998. Pp. 470. Price £23.50, paperback. ISBN 0 19 510901 5.

Microsatellites — Evolution and Applications. Daniel B. Goldstein and Christian Schlötterer (eds). Oxford University Press,

Oxford. 1999. Pp. 352. Price £27.50, paperback. ISBN 0 19 850407 1.

A Means to an End — The Biological Basis of Aging and Death. William R. Clark. Oxford University Press, New York. 1999. Pp. 234. Price £18.99, hardback. ISBN 0 19 512593 2.