

The Molecular Biology of the Yeast Saccharomyces

Monograph 11A: Life Cycle and Inheritance; Monograph 11B: Metabolism and Gene Expression

Edited by J.N. Strathern, E.W. Jones and J.R. Broach

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; New York 1981; 1982

x + 752 pages. \$75.00 (\$90.00 outside USA); 680 pages. \$75.00 (\$90.00 outside USA)

These eukaryotic *tours de force* report on the Molecular Biology of Yeast meeting held at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in 1979. This was clearly a most exciting event and encouraged the assembly of the two volumes under review. The articles (29) and appendices (6) provide a detailed background to yeast molecular biology and indicate in some cases the direction in which current research is progressing. It is a little unfortunate that completion of the two volumes took somewhat over three years and in the Preface to the second volume the editors express relief that the Herculean task of compilation has finally borne fruit. The editors also concede that the time span over which the monographs were prepared has been responsible for the creation of gaps in the coverage. Thus, analysis of transposable elements in yeast and messenger RNA splicing might provide key areas of coverage in a meeting held in 1983. Despite such minor setbacks, however, the editors have assembled a series of splendid articles and the major difficulty is in finding the time to read all the contributions. The coverage is, to say

the least, extensive and the (almost) complete molecular biology of yeast is undoubtedly at hand. It would perhaps be unfair to praise any one particular effort since the ones I have read to date (admittedly not all) are of extreme interest and contain a wealth of information. Inevitably, however, it is this latter quality which will make certain of the articles rather heavy going for those with peripheral knowledge of the subject area in question. This is indeed a monograph which should provide an excellent source of information for many years to come and for those interested in *Saccharomyces* sp. it is a must. In recommending these two volumes highly I should say, nevertheless, that I found the lay out of the articles less than satisfactory. Thus, for each chapter there is a contents section that is subdivided into numbers and letters which are subsequently not represented in the pages of text. A minor point this may be but location of a particular section is less easy than it might otherwise have been.

Michael Cannon