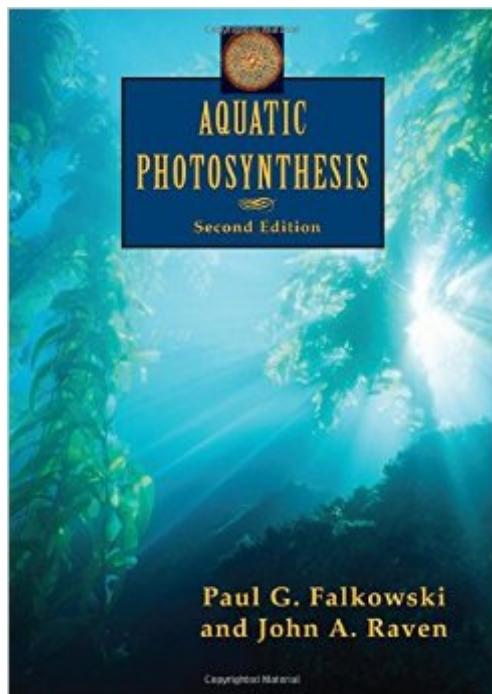


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Aquatic Photosynthesis: Second Edition



Synopsis

Aquatic Photosynthesis is a comprehensive guide to understanding the evolution and ecology of photosynthesis in aquatic environments. This second edition, thoroughly revised to bring it up to date, describes how one of the most fundamental metabolic processes evolved and transformed the surface chemistry of the Earth. The book focuses on recent biochemical and biophysical advances and the molecular biological techniques that have made them possible. In ten chapters that are self-contained but that build upon information presented earlier, the book starts with a reductionist, biophysical description of the photosynthetic reactions. It then moves through biochemical and molecular biological patterns in aquatic photoautotrophs, physiological and ecological principles, and global biogeochemical cycles. The book considers applications to ecology, and refers to historical developments. It can be used as a primary text in a lecture course, or as a supplemental text in a survey course such as biological oceanography, limnology, or biogeochemistry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an extremely interesting and useful book for anyone working with or needing knowledge of photosynthesis in algae and other aquatic plants. The emphasis on biophysics in the first few chapters sheds a whole new light on the processes of photosynthesis at the most basic level. The information is general and does not give extensive citations to current scientific work, but rather focuses on the historical research leading to current understanding of photosynthesis. My one criticism so far is with the number of errors, typographical and other, in some of the graphs and

figures, making it quite hard to figure out just what is what. Hopefully there will be a revised edition which will correct these.

This definitive text on aquatic photosynthesis reads like a good novel. It takes the reader on a scientific adventure through the fundamentals of light absorption and the biophysics of the light reactions all the way to the biogeochemistry and evolution. Interspersed throughout the book are particularly interesting anecdotes about everything from the molecular clock to hole burning. A scientific tour de force!

I am a fisheries major, so my interests do not lie in the plant realm, at all. The course I am enrolled in is the ecology of algae, and it doesn't follow along with the book very well, but that's not really the problem. Falkowski's writing is full of so much jargon, it is very difficult to follow. It was written more for a graduate level, which this course is in part, but way too many big words are planted into each individual idea, making it a tough book to learn from. However, this said, the data and graphs used are relevant and seem to be concise for the concepts, and mistakes seem to be at a minimum. I just feel it isn't very approachable for an undergraduate, unless they have the time to go back and google terms and piece it together for conceptual understanding.

The standard for algae and cyanobacteria. I refer to it frequently.

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