

# *Principles of* **Animal Physiology**

SECOND EDITION

*James A. Wilson*

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**SECOND EDITION**

*James A. Wilson* OHIO UNIVERSITY

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# Preface to Second Edition

Any author is pleased when a book succeeds well enough to enable a second edition to be published. My goals in writing this new edition remain the same as those described in the preface to the first edition. I have made some changes in the general organization of the text, but all the subject matter has been retained and much has been rewritten, expanded, or brought up to date (within the limits of my writing speed and publication times). The theme of regulation continues to run through this edition and is hopefully better reflected in more examples and diagrams of feedback systems and controls.

So many professors, researchers, and students have aided in the preparation of this new edition by their suggestions and

comments that space does not permit me to acknowledge them all by name. However, I wish to thank all of them most sincerely for their time and trouble—without this type of input it would be impossible to produce any output.

Of course, any shortcomings or errors are entirely my own. I hope that the readers of this second edition will be as kind as those of the first and will send me their comments and criticisms.

Finally, I would like to thank the Macmillan people who have all been so helpful and patient, especially the biology editor, Woodrow Chapman, and the production supervisor, Mrs. Elaine Wetterau.

J.A.W.

# Preface to First Edition

This textbook was begun, as it seems many textbooks are, because of a felt need for a better source of material for the students taking a course. Although several excellent texts are available in the areas of cellular biology, general physiology, and biochemistry, it seemed to me that students at the introductory level needed a text combining discussion of the important aspects of these three areas with a consideration of higher levels of animal structure and function—plus some consideration of the comparative aspects of physiology. To meet this need, this book is entitled *Principles of Animal Physiology*—an indication that important ideas from all areas of physiology are presented and that the approach is a broader one than is usually found in textbooks. I tend to think of physiology as a unit, not as a series of discrete areas, and I have tried here to examine animal functioning at all levels from the molecular to the whole organism.

Any textbook requires a central theme, and in this book I have taken regulation as a major concept. In addition, I have felt it important to incorporate the similarities and differences of structure and function found in various animals—in one sense, an incorporation of data from comparative physiology.

I did not hesitate to think in terms of a lengthy book. Most available texts, in my opinion, suffer from the major defect of shortness. To present adequately the basic terms, definitions, and concepts of physiology is a lengthy undertaking. Writing a short book also necessitates a degree of

selectivity that amounts to mind reading on the part of the author as to what is going to be taught in physiology courses in many colleges and universities. Such a treatment can only drastically reduce the usefulness of a text. Nevertheless, I too have omitted some topics or given them only sketchy treatment. However, I have tried to include sufficient references to the literature so that the interested student can proceed on his own.

This book is written primarily for the interested student—not one who is necessarily majoring in physiology, but one who finds some fascination in the subject matter of physiology. My philosophy is that if a text is written in such a manner, it will also be good for any student taking a physiology course.

The main purpose of this book is to describe how physiological systems work, and such descriptions are presented primarily in physical-chemical terms. Since physiology is an experimental science, I have tried to include as much as possible on the instrumentation, methods, and approaches used in the study of different levels of animal functioning. As many data as possible are given so that the student may have some opportunity to see the sources of physiological hypotheses and theories. Naturally, space places a limit on such material but, again, references are provided that discuss methods and data not completely covered in the text itself.

The book is divided into four parts, beginning with the most basic levels of structure or function in animals and progressing to the most complex. Part I is

concerned with molecules and cell organization and with the chemical and physical principles upon which biochemical reactions and energy exchanges are based. The first chapter contains a brief consideration of systems analysis, feedback regulation, adaptation, and regulation. These are extremely useful concepts to the physiologist, and they are used in all later chapters of the book. I have outlined the nature of biochemical evolution in Chapter 5. Evolution at any level is one of the most important of biological theories and especially deserves recognition in a physiology book that includes elements of comparative physiology. In Chapter 5, I have also included a listing of the names, and a rough indication of the relationships, of living animals. I find that many students taking physiology courses have either forgotten or have never been acquainted with animal names and relations. It is hoped that this listing can be used by the student to identify and relate the organisms discussed in later chapters of the book.

Part II contains the basic cellular mechanisms upon which much regulatory ability, adaptation, and responsiveness to environment are based, including a discussion of specialized cells, especially nerve and muscle cells, which exhibit such mechanisms to a high degree.

Part III on homeostasis carries regulation one step further—to the level of organized systems. The many differences that may be found among animals in the structures and functional abilities used in homeostasis are emphasized, although, as stressed in the first two parts of the book, cellular organization and functioning have many similarities in all animals.

Part IV includes elements of sensory physiology and a brief discussion of animal behavior based on selected examples. It is hoped that these examples will give an indication of how the cellular and organismal activities of the whole animal are coordinated and integrated to produce successful responses to the environment.

Each chapter has its own reference and reading list, usually a lengthy one. Although textbooks are not the place for presenting

long lists of shorter research papers, monographs and reviews by workers in various specialized fields are an aid in a bibliography that includes discussions of the research and its results. Therefore, research papers of proven significance or with important methodological details are given in the reference lists. Citations are inserted in the text in a way that creates a minimum of disruption. The citations were chosen to provide both a chronological map of physiological discoveries and also a listing of researchers associated with particular fields of study. Recognizing that some readers will not have all important sources of physiological information available to them, I have tried to provide two or more references to a given subject when possible, hoping that at least one will be available to the interested reader.

The book certainly has shortcomings, but I hope it will be of value to students, the people for whom it is written. I have not designated it as suitable for any particular level of student. Anyone with a background containing some chemistry, a little physics and mathematics, and some biology can easily learn to appreciate the physiological data. Graduate students may find it useful both for the material covered and for the references to the literature; however, it is a textbook and not an advanced treatise.

No author could be an expert in all the areas covered by this book. I have tried to present those ideas which appear most generally accepted by workers in a given area. At the same time I have not hesitated to present less well-accepted hypotheses, to give my own opinions or interpretations where necessary, and to go out on a limb when extrapolating present knowledge (or lack of it) to future work in physiology. It is hoped that the reader of this book will arrive at the conclusion that comparatively little is settled in physiology and that much remains to be done.

I gratefully acknowledge the many people who have read and criticized all or part of the manuscript. These include Professors G. S. Araki, K. S. Guthe, W. N. Holmes, T. C. Jegla, L. E. Moore, L. M. Passano, and J. Thomas. Of course, all

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

errors both of omission and commission are my responsibility.

I also wish to thank John and Mary Richardson for their invaluable help in the preparation of the illustrations and in the preparation of the manuscript. Nearly all of the illustrations are either new or completely redrawn and corrected. Originally I had planned to use many more electron micrographs, but it appeared that in too many cases such micrographs would be of value only to people expert in their inter-

pretation. Therefore, many morphological details are illustrated by line drawings rather than original halftones.

Last, but certainly not least, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. William D. Eastman, Executive Editor at The Macmillan Company, for his enthusiasm, his help, and especially for his patience when deadlines arrived but manuscript did not.

J.A.W.

# Brief Contents

## **Part I Some Basic Properties of Living Systems**

- Chapter 1**  
The Nature of the Subject 3
- Chapter 2**  
Cellular Constituents 44
- Chapter 3**  
Cellular Organization and Membranes 75
- Chapter 4**  
Energy and Cellular Metabolism 121

## **Part II Fundamental Units of Animal Regulatory Systems**

- Chapter 5**  
Biological Membranes and Material Transport 163
- Chapter 6**  
Resting and Action Potentials of Excitable Cells 219
- Chapter 7**  
Synaptic and Generator Potentials 269

- Chapter 8**  
Contractility of Muscle and Cells 331

- Chapter 9**  
Aspects of Nervous System Functioning 405

- Chapter 10**  
Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Regulation 474

## **Part III Homeostasis: Regulation of the Internal Environment**

- Chapter 11**  
Circulatory Systems—Nature and Functions 543
- Chapter 12**  
Circulatory Systems—Types, Hearts, and Controls 594
- Chapter 13**  
Water and Solute Regulation 645
- Chapter 14**  
Nutrition and Body Temperature 710
- Chapter 15**  
Animal Respiration 759
- Chapter 16**  
Light, The Animal, and Behavior 802
- Author Index** 839
- Subject Index** 855



# Detailed Contents

## **Part I Some Basic Properties of Living Systems**

### **Chapter 1**

#### **The Nature of the Subject 3**

- 1-1 Purpose and Scope of Physiology 3

#### **The Fields of Physiology 4**

- 1-2 Morphology and Physiology 4
- 1-3 Comparative Physiology and Evolution 7
- 1-4 Cellular and General Physiology 16
- 1-5 Biochemistry and Related Areas 17
- 1-6 Other Areas of Physiology 18

#### **Some Concepts Underlying Physiological Research 19**

- 1-7 Experimentation, Mechanism, and Vitalism 19
- 1-8 Regulation and Adaptation 20
- 1-9 Systems Analysis 23
- 1-10 What Is a System? 24
- 1-11 Models in Physiology 25
- 1-12 The Stimulus and White and Black Boxes 26
- 1-13 Cybernetics, Feedback, and Regulation 29
- 1-14 Components of Biological Control Systems 32
- 1-15 An Example of Homeostasis 33
- 1-16 Instrumentation and Techniques 37

**Literature 38**

**References and Readings 38**

### **Chapter 2**

#### **Cellular Constituents 44**

- 2-1 General Composition of Animals 44

#### **Water 45**

- 2-2 The Role of Water 45
- 2-3 Hydrogen Bonding and Water Structure 46
- 2-4 Thermal Properties of Water 49
- 2-5 The Anomalous Density of Water 50
- 2-6 The Dielectric Constant and Solubility 50
- 2-7 Dissociation and Conduction in Water 51
- 2-8 Surface Tension and Viscosity 52

#### **Macromolecules 53**

- 2-9 Macromolecular Basis of Life 53
- 2-10 Amino Acids and Primary Protein Structure 54
- 2-11 Protein Conformation 56
- 2-12 Summary of Protein Linkages 61
- 2-13 Primary Structure of Nucleic Acids 62
- 2-14 Secondary Structure of Nucleic Acids 64

#### **Lipids and Carbohydrates 66**

- 2-15 Structure and Functions of Lipids 66
- 2-16 Carbohydrates 68
- 2-17 Summary 70

#### **References and Readings 71**

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Cellular Organization and Membranes 75**

- 3-1 Purpose of the Chapter 75
- 3-2 Observational Methods and Resolution 76

## DETAILED CONTENTS

3-3	The Electron Microscope	76
3-4	Improving Contrast	77
3-5	Other Cellular Techniques	80
<b>Cellular Organization and Membranes</b>		82
3-6	Generalized Cell Models	82
3-7	Compartmentation	82
3-8	Gross Membrane Structure	85
3-9	Evolution of Membrane Models	87
3-10	Myelin	91
3-11	Which Membrane Model Is Correct?	98
<b>The Extracellular Environment and Intercellular Contacts</b>		99
3-12	The Basal Lamina	99
3-13	Collagen	99
3-14	Intercellular Contacts	102
3-15	Intercellular Junctions	103
<b>Cellular Organelles</b>		107
3-16	Mitochondria	107
3-17	The Endoplasmic Reticulum	108
3-18	The Lysosome Concept	109
3-19	Stimulation of Endocytosis	111
3-20	Cytofilaments, Cytotubules, and Cilia	113
3-21	The Nucleus	114
3-22	Discussion	115
<b>References and Readings</b>		116
<b>Chapter 4</b>		
<b>Energy and Cellular Metabolism</b>		121
<b>Some Principles of Thermodynamics</b>		121
4-1	Energy and Work	121
4-2	First Law: Conservation of Energy	123
4-3	The Second Law	124
4-4	Free Energy and Useful Work	125
4-5	Equilibria and Free Energy	126
4-6	Some Comments on Cellular Reactions	127
<b>Enzymes and Enzyme Kinetics</b>		129
4-7	The Enzyme-Substrate Complex	129
4-8	Activation Energy and Temperature	130
4-9	Open Steady-State Systems	133
4-10	Michaelis-Menten Kinetics	135
4-11	The Lineweaver-Burke Plot	137
4-12	Units of Enzyme Activity	137
4-13	Enzyme Nomenclature	138
<b>Energy Metabolism</b>		138
4-14	Metabolism and Glycolysis	138
4-15	The TCA Cycle	142

4-16	Oxidation-Reduction and Cytochromes	145
------	-------------------------------------	-----

<b>Control of Cellular Metabolism</b>		150
4-17	Control of Cellular Respiration	150
4-18	Mitochondrial Compartmentation	151
4-19	Enzyme Reversibility, Duplication, and Activation	152
4-20	Feedback Inhibition and Allosteric Effects	154
4-21	Enzyme Induction and Repression	155
4-22	Summary of Metabolic Controls	156

<b>References and Readings</b>	157
--------------------------------	-----

## Part II Fundamental Units of Animal Regulatory Systems

### Chapter 5 Biological Membranes and Material Transport 163

5-1	General Role and Nature of Membranes	163
-----	--------------------------------------	-----

#### **Diffusion, Osmosis, and Related Properties of Solutions 164**

5-2	Simple Diffusion in Solutions	164
5-3	The Rate of Diffusion	167
5-4	Diffusion Through Membranes	168
5-5	Partition Coefficients	171
5-6	Osmosis	172
5-7	Some Terms and Units Used in Osmotic Studies	173
5-8	Other Colligative Properties	174
5-9	Ultrafiltration and Dialysis	175

#### **Cellular Permeability and Membrane Transport 176**

5-10	Fluxes and Methodology	176
5-11	Mechanisms of Material Movement	177
5-12	Erythrocytes and <i>Arbacia</i> Eggs	179
5-13	Cells as Osmometers	183
5-14	Distribution of Ions	183
5-15	The Gibbs-Donnan Equilibrium	184
5-16	Impermeable Anions	186
5-17	Active and Passive Transport in Erythrocytes	188
5-18	Energy for Active Transport	189

- 5-19 Donnan and Related Potentials 191  
 5-20 Pores and Carriers 196

**Transport in Epithelial Tissues 198**

- 5-21 Water Transport 198  
 5-22 Active Transport of Glucose 202  
 5-23 Role of the Brush Border 204  
 5-24 Amino Acid Transport 205  
 5-25 The Control of Transport 205

**Potentials Across Epithelial Surfaces 206**

- 5-26 Frog Skin Potentials 206  
 5-27 Short-Circuited Frog Skin 207  
 5-28 Localization of the Transport Process 208  
 5-29 Toad Bladder 210

**References and Readings 211**

**Chapter 6**

**Resting and Action Potentials of Excitable Cells 219**

**Nerve Cell Structure and General Functions 219**

- 6-1 Transmission of Signals 219  
 6-2 The Neuron Theory 219  
 6-3 The Generalized Neuron 220  
 6-4 Axonal and Dendritic Regions 221  
 6-5 Sheaths of Peripheral Axons 223

**Bioelectric Potentials: Injury and Resting Potentials 225**

- 6-6 Early Development of Bioelectric Concepts 225  
 6-7 Injury Potentials 226  
 6-8 The Squid Axon and Microelectrodes 227  
 6-9 Resting Potentials 228  
 6-10 The Basis of the Resting Potential 229  
 6-11 Electrical Characteristics of Cells 232  
 6-12 Note on Electrical Conventions 235

**Bioelectric Potentials: The Conducted Action Potential 235**

- 6-13 Stimulation and Recording 235  
 6-14 Biphasic and Monophasic Action Potentials 237  
 6-15 The Voltage-Clamp Method 239  
 6-16 Sodium and Potassium Ionic Currents 240  
 6-17 Action Potentials Recorded from Single Cells 243  
 6-18 Perfused Axons 244  
 6-19 Characteristics of Excitation 245  
 6-20 Refractory Periods 250

- 6-21 Heat and Metabolism of Nerve 251  
 6-22 Models of Conductance Pathways 252

**Conduction of Action Potentials 255**

- 6-23 Local Circuit Theory 255  
 6-24 Conduction in Myelinated Fibers 256  
 6-25 Voltage-Clamp Studies of Nodes 257  
 6-26 The Compound Action Potential 258  
 6-27 The Acetylcholine Hypothesis 261

**References and Readings 262**

**Chapter 7**

**Synaptic and Generator Potentials 269**

- 7-1 Functions of the Dendritic Zone 269

**Synapses 271**

- 7-2 Definition of a Synapse 271  
 7-3 General Types of Synapses 272  
 7-4 Number and Distribution of Synaptic Endings 275  
 7-5 Ultrastructure of Synapses 277  
 7-6 Chemical Versus Electrical Transmission 278

**Mechanisms of Chemical Transmission 282**

- 7-7 Steps in Chemical Transmission 282  
 7-8 Transmitter Release 282  
 7-9 Action of Transmitter on Subsynaptic Membranes 284  
 7-10 Drug Actions at Synapses 285  
 7-11 Excitatory and Inhibitory EPPs and PSPs 291  
 7-12 Properties of Chemically Transmitting Synapses 293  
 7-13 Chemical Transmitters 296

**Electrically Transmitting Synapses and Ephapses 299**

- 7-14 Nature of Electrical Transmission 299  
 7-15 The Crayfish Giant-Motor Synapse 300  
 7-16 Segmental Synapses in the Crayfish and Earthworm 301  
 7-17 The Mauthner Cell 302  
 7-18 The Chick Ciliary Ganglion and *Aplysia* Giant Cells 304  
 7-19 Ephapses 305

**Generator (Receptor) Potentials 305**

- 7-20 Introduction 305  
 7-21 Classification of Receptors 305  
 7-22 The Pacinian Corpuscle and Crustacean Stretch Receptor Organ 306  
 7-23 Generator Potentials 307  
 7-24 Ionic Mechanisms 308  
 7-25 Transducer Input and Output 309

## DETAILED CONTENTS

### **Electric Organs** 310

7-26 General Nature of Electric Organs 310

7-27 Mechanism of Discharge 312

7-28 Functions of Electric Organs 314

### **Mass Cellular Contacts and Spontaneous Potentials** 314

7-29 Introduction 314

7-30 Cardiac Muscle Cell Junctions 315

7-31 Excitation and Conduction in the Vertebrate Heart 317

7-32 Spontaneous Potentials in Cardiac Muscle 318

7-33 Spontaneous Potentials and Excitation of Smooth Muscle 320

7-34 Neuroglial Systems 321

7-35 Epithelial Interconnections 322

### **References and Readings** 323

## **Chapter 8**

### **Contractility of Muscle and Cells** 331

8-1 Introduction 331

### **Structure and Properties of Striated Skeletal Muscle** 332

8-2 Classification of Muscles 332

8-3 Ultrastructure of Striated Skeletal Muscle 335

8-4 Structure of the Sarcomere 339

8-5 T-filaments 341

### **Biochemistry of the Contractile Proteins** 342

8-6 Myosin 342

8-7 Actin 344

8-8 Actomyosin 345

8-9 Tropomyosin and Troponin 346

8-10 Other Proteins Associated with Contractility 348

### **The Mechanism of Muscular Contraction** 350

8-11 The Sliding-Filament Model 350

8-12 Operation of the Cross Bridges 351

8-13 Alternative Models of Contraction 353

8-14 Excitation-Contraction Coupling 354

### **Energetic and Thermal Aspects of Muscular Contraction** 357

8-15 The Energy Source for Contraction 357

8-16 Phosphagens and ATP-358

8-17 Interactions of Muscle Organophosphates 359

8-18 Heat Production 361

8-19 Shortening Heat 362

8-20 Activation Heat 365

8-21 The Active State 366

8-22 Relaxation and Relaxation Heat 368

### **Mechanical Properties of Muscle** 368

8-23 Muscle Responses to Single Stimuli 368

8-24 Muscle Responses to Repeated Stimuli 369

8-25 The Length-Tension Curve 371

8-26 Work Load and Efficiency of Muscular Contraction 372

### **Muscle Models and Other Contractile Systems** 375

8-27 The Glycerol-Extracted Muscle Fiber 375

8-28 Actomyosin Threads 376

8-29 Slow and Fast Fibers 376

8-30 Comments on Some Crustacean Muscles 377

8-31 Molluscan "Catch" (Paramyosin) Muscles 378

8-32 Smooth and Nonstriated Muscle 380

8-33 Insect Fibrillar Muscle 383

8-34 Ciliary Activity 387

8-35 Ameboid Movement 391

8-36 Spasmonemes (or Myonemes) 393

### **References and Readings** 393

## **Chapter 9**

### **Aspects of Nervous System Functioning** 405

9-1 Introduction 405

### **Some Basic Properties of Nervous Systems** 405

9-2 General Functions of Nervous Systems 405

9-3 Structural Components of Nervous Systems 407

9-4 Neurons in Nervous Systems 409

9-5 Properties of the Reflex Arc 409

### **The Vertebrate Nervous System** 411

9-6 The Spinal Cord 411

9-7 The Autonomic Nervous System 412

9-8 Mammalian Neurons 415

9-9 Interneurons 417

9-10 Convergence and Occlusion 418

9-11 The Vertebrate Brain 419

### **Vertebrate Neuromuscular Controls** 425

9-12 Components of Muscular Movements 425

- 9-13 Feedback Control of Muscular Activity—Muscle Spindles 427
- 9-14 The Follow-up Servomechanism Theory 431
- 9-15 Feedback Control of Muscular Activity—Golgi Tendon Organ 433
- 9-16 Some Vertebrate Reflexes 434

***Invertebrate Nervous Systems* 437**

- 9-17 The Coelenterate Nerve Net 437
- 9-18 The Annelid Nervous System 439
- 9-19 Arthropod Nervous Systems 443
- 9-20 Crustacean Neuromuscular Control 445

***Mechanoreception and Further Nervous System Activities* 450**

- 9-21 Types of Mechanoreceptors 450
- 9-22 Pain, Touch, and Temperature Receptors 451
- 9-23 Equilibrium Receptors—Crustaceans 452
- 9-24 Mechanoreceptors—Insects 454
- 9-25 Equilibrium Receptors—Vertebrates 455

***Hearing* 457**

- 9-26 Insects 457
- 9-27 The Lateral Line of Fishes 458
- 9-28 Hearing in Mammals 459
- 9-29 Echolocation in Moths and Bats 462
- 9-30 Echolocation in Other Animals 464

***Control of Insect Flight* 465**

- 9-31 Initiation and Maintenance of Flight 465
- 9-32 Dipteran Halteres 466
- 9-33 Analysis of Locust Flight 466

***References and Readings* 468**

***Chapter 10***

***Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Regulation* 474**

- 10-1 Introduction 474
- 10-2 Types of Chemical Regulators 475
- 10-3 Secondary Messengers 477
- 10-4 Neuroendocrine Reflexes 478
- 10-5 Methods in Endocrinology 479

***Vertebrate Chemical Regulation* 482**

- 10-6 Survey of Vertebrate Endocrine Functions and Hormones 482
- 10-7 The Hypothalamus and Hypophysis 482

- 10-8 Other Vertebrate Endocrine Structures 487
- 10-9 The Regulation of Free Calcium 490

***Invertebrate Chemical Regulation* 491**

- 10-10 Survey of Some Invertebrate Neuroendocrine Systems 491
- 10-11 Crustacean Endocrine Systems 493
- 10-12 Insect Endocrine Systems 494
- 10-13 Molluscan and Echinoderm Chemical Regulation 495

***Endocrine Systems and the Control of Reproduction and Growth* 496**

- 10-14 Mammalian Reproduction 496
- 10-15 Regeneration and Metamorphosis 499
- 10-16 Crustacean Molting 502
- 10-17 Neurotrophic Effects and Axonal Transport 503

***Chromatophores and the Regulation of Color Changes* 505**

- 10-18 Nature and Functions of Chromatophores 505
- 10-19 Cephalopod Chromatophores 506
- 10-20 Chromatophore Pigments 508
- 10-21 Other Chromatophores 511
- 10-22 Crustacean Chromatophores 512
- 10-23 Vertebrate Chromatophores 515

***Chemical Reception and Pheromones* 517**

- 10-24 Chemoreception 517
- 10-25 Insect Chemoreception 519
- 10-26 Vertebrate Chemoreception 520
- 10-27 Pheromones and Chemical Communications 521
- 10-28 Chemicals and Behavior in Coelenterates 522

***Biological Rhythms and Chronobiology* 524**

- 10-29 Types of Physiological Rhythms 524
- 10-30 Endogenous Circadian Rhythms 524
- 10-31 Entrainment, Synchronization, and Zeitgebers 526
- 10-32 Nature of Some Circadian Rhythms 527
- 10-33 Navigation and Biological Clocks 528
- 10-34 Bee Dances 529
- 10-35 Homing and Migration 531
- 10-36 Conclusions 532

***References and Readings* 532**

## **Part III Homeostasis: Regulation of the Internal Environment**

### **Chapter 11 Circulatory Systems—Nature and Functions 543**

#### ***Nature of Circulatory Systems 543***

- 11-1 Importance of Circulatory Systems 543
- 11-2 Types of Transport Systems 544
- 11-3 Compartmentation of Body Fluids 544
- 11-4 Components of Circulatory Systems 547

#### ***Hemodynamics 549***

- 11-5 Fluid Flows 549
- 11-6 Viscosity 549
- 11-7 Hydrostatic Pressure 550
- 11-8 Fluid Energies 552
- 11-9 Blood Pressures 554
- 11-10 Resistance to Blood Flow 555

#### ***Blood Vessels 557***

- 11-11 Tissues of the Vascular Wall 557
- 11-12 Structural Properties of Vascular Walls 559
- 11-13 Arteries 560
- 11-14 Veins 561
- 11-15 The Microcirculation 562
- 11-16 Capillary Structure 567
- 11-17 Capillary Functioning 570
- 11-18 The Lymphatic System 573

#### ***Blood 574***

- 11-19 General Nature of Blood 574
- 11-20 The Hematocrit 575
- 11-21 Blood Volumes 576
- 11-22 Erythropoietin and Regulation of Erythropoiesis 577
- 11-23 Blood Coagulation in Mammals 579
- 11-24 Hemostasis in the Invertebrates 582

#### ***Blood and the Transport of Respiratory Gases 583***

- 11-25 Hemoglobin 583
- 11-26 Other Respiratory Pigments 587
- 11-27 Carbon Dioxide Transport 588

- 11-28 Acid-Base Balance 588

#### ***References and Readings 590***

### **Chapter 12 Circulatory Systems—Types, Hearts, and Controls 594**

#### ***Pumping Organs: Types and Functions 594***

- 12-1 Introduction 594
- 12-2 Hydraulic Systems 595
- 12-3 Echinoderm Hemal and Water Vascular Systems 596
- 12-4 Annelids 598
- 12-5 Molluscs 599
- 12-6 Arthropods 602
- 12-7 Tunicates 605
- 12-8 Vertebrates—Fishes 605
- 12-9 Vertebrates—Amphibians and Reptiles 610
- 12-10 Vertebrates—Birds and Mammals 613
- 12-11 Cardiac Output 616

#### ***Electrical Activity of Hearts 619***

- 12-12 Pacemakers and Conduction Systems 619
- 12-13 The Electrocardiogram 620
- 12-14 Cardiac Ganglia 624
- 12-15 The Effect of Ions on the Heart 627
- 12-16 Drugs and the Heart 629

#### ***Control of the Heart and Circulation 630***

- 12-17 Starling's Law of the Heart 630
- 12-18 Innervation of the Mammalian Heart 631
- 12-19 Vasomotor Control 634
- 12-20 Chemical Regulation of Vasomotor Tone 635
- 12-21 Fluid Volumes and Arterial Pressure 636
- 12-22 Summary of Circulatory Controls 638

#### ***References and Readings 639***

### **Chapter 13 Water and Solute Regulation 645**

#### ***General Concepts of Osmoregulation 645***

- 13-1 Introduction 645
- 13-2 Some Terms Used in Osmoregulatory Studies 646
- 13-3 Osmotic Environments and Animals 647
- 13-4 Some Methods in Osmoregulatory Studies 654
- 13-5 Physiological Solutions 657

**Excretory Organs: Methods of Study** 659

- 13-6 Introduction 659
- 13-7 Micropuncture Methods 660
- 13-8 Stop-Flow Analysis 660
- 13-9 Electrical Potential Measurements 661
- 13-10 Clearance Studies 661
- 13-11 Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) 661
- 13-12 Renal Plasma Flow (RPF) 662
- 13-13 Transport Maximum  $T_M$  662

**Excretory Organs: Types and Functions** 662

- 13-14 The Contractile Vacuole 662
- 13-15 Coelenterates and Echinoderms 664
- 13-16 Malpighian Tubules (Insects) 664
- 13-17 Protonephridia 666
- 13-18 Nematodes 667
- 13-19 Annelids 667
- 13-20 Crustaceans 667
- 13-21 Molluscs 669
- 13-22 Structure of the Vertebrate Nephron 669
- 13-23 Glomerular Functioning 672
- 13-24 Tubular Functioning: The Countercurrent System 675
- 13-25 Reabsorption and Secretion by the Nephron 679
- 13-26 Regulation of Kidney Functioning 681
- 13-27 Control of Fluid Volume 683

**Osmoregulation by Animals** 686

- 13-28 Lower Invertebrates 686
- 13-29 Osmoregulation in Annelids 687
- 13-30 Molluscs 688
- 13-31 Crustaceans 689
- 13-32 Insects 691
- 13-33 Vertebrates—Fishes 692
- 13-34 Vertebrates—Amphibians and Reptiles 693
- 13-35 Vertebrates—Mammals and Birds 695

**Nitrogen Excretion and Storage** 697

- 13-36 Ammonia 697
- 13-37 Urea and the Ornithine Cycle 699
- 13-38 Uric Acid and Purine Metabolism 700
- 13-39 Other End Products of Nitrogen Metabolism 700
- 13-40 Some General Patterns of Nitrogen Excretion 702

**References and Readings** 703**Chapter 14****Nutrition and Body Temperature** 710

## 14-1 Introduction 710

**Animal Nutrition** 711

- 14-2 Nutritional Requirements 711
- 14-3 Feeding Mechanism 715
- 14-4 Digestion—Some Mechanical Aspects 716
- 14-5 Digestion—Chemical Aspects 717
- 14-6 Invertebrate Digestive Enzymes 718
- 14-7 Absorption 720
- 14-8 Symbiosis 720

**Calorimetry and Metabolism** 721

- 14-9 Calorimetric Methods 721
- 14-10 The Respiratory Quotient 723
- 14-11 Energy Storage 724
- 14-12 Basal and Standard Metabolism 724
- 14-13 Metabolic Rate, Body Weight, and Surface Area 725

**Homeothermic Endothermic Animals** 727

- 14-14 Heat Exchanges 727
- 14-15 Chemical Methods of Heat Gain 728
- 14-16 Heat-Loss Mechanisms 732

**Pathways of Thermoregulation** 734

- 14-17 Thermoreceptors 734
- 14-18 The Hypothalamus 735
- 14-19 Set-Point Hypotheses 736

**Behavioral and Adaptive Temperature Control** 738

- 14-20 Introduction 738
- 14-21 Hibernation 738
- 14-22 Invertebrate Thermal Control and Adaptation 739
- 14-23 Aquatic Poikilotherms 741
- 14-24 The Freezing Tolerance of Animals 743
- 14-25 Reptiles 744
- 14-26 Amphibians 746
- 14-27 Homeothermy in Birds and Mammals 746
- 14-28 Homeotherms in Cold Environments 749
- 14-29 The Desert Environment 752

**References and Readings** 754**Chapter 15****Animal Respiration** 759

## 15-1 Introduction 759

## DETAILED CONTENTS

### **Gases** 759

- 15-2** Gas Volumes and Pressures 759
- 15-3** Oxygen Diffusion and Solubility 761
- 15-4** Standard Symbols in Respiratory Physiology 765

### **Invertebrate Respiratory Mechanisms** 766

- 15-5** Some General Comments 766
- 15-6** Molluscs 767
- 15-7** Arthropods—Chelicerates and Insects 768
- 15-8** Arthropods—Crustaceans 771

### **The Mammalian Respiratory Systems** 773

- 15-9** Structure 773
- 15-10** Viscoelasticity of Lungs and Thorax 774
- 15-11** Ventilation—The Mechanics 777
- 15-12** Ventilation—Pressure and Volume Changes 779
- 15-13** Respiratory Controls 781

### **Respiratory Mechanisms in Other Vertebrates** 784

- 15-14** Birds 784
- 15-15** Fishes 786
- 15-16** Amphibians 789

### **Respiratory—Circulatory Adaptations** 790

- 15-17** Diving Animals 790
- 15-18** High-Altitude Adaptations 791

### **Gases and Buoyancy** 793

- 15-19** Introduction 793
- 15-20** Substitution Methods for Buoyancy Control 793
- 15-21** Gas Floats 794
- 15-22** Swim Bladders 795

### **References and Readings** 797

## **Chapter 16**

### **Light, the Animal, and Behavior** 802

#### **Mechanisms of Light Perception** 802

- 16-1** Some Characteristics of Light 802
- 16-2** Animal Photoreception 802
- 16-3** Structure of the Vertebrate Eye 804
- 16-4** The Retina 805
- 16-5** Rod and Cone Cells 807
- 16-6** Photochemistry 808
- 16-7** Distribution of Visual Pigments 812
- 16-8** Cones and Color Vision 813
- 16-9** Processing of Visual Information 815
- 16-10** The Arthropod Compound Eye 817

#### **Some Behavioral Aspects of Vision** 821

- 16-11** Visual Responses 821
- 16-12** Orientation Behavior 823
- 16-13** Role of Vision in Behavior 824
- 16-14** Form Vision, Learning, and Memory in Cephalopods 825

#### **Bioluminescence** 829

- 16-15** General Nature of Bioluminescence 829
- 16-16** Some Terminology 830
- 16-17** Bacterial Bioluminescence 831
- 16-18** Firefly Bioluminescence 831
- 16-19** Coelenterate Bioluminescence 832
- 16-20** Some Other Invertebrate Systems 833
- 16-21** Bioluminescence in Fishes 833

#### **References and Readings** 834

#### **Author Index** 839

#### **Subject Index** 855



# *Part I* Some Basic Properties of Living Systems

- Chapter 1 The Nature of the Subject**
- Chapter 2 Cellular Constituents**
- Chapter 3 Cellular Organization and Membranes**
- Chapter 4 Energy and Cellular Metabolism**

Following a brief introduction to the history and nature of physiology, Chapter 1 discusses regulation, control, and adaptation as basic properties of all living systems. Feedback regulation and systems analysis are introduced because they provide one conceptual framework upon which physiological regulation may be placed. The idea of regulation in animals was conceived long before the development of cybernetics. However, cybernetics provides a language and the mathematics for describing rigorously any regulatory system. Chapter 1 also contains a listing of the major animal groups.

Certain classes of molecules are also basic to all living systems, and these are described in Chapter 2. Some emphasis is placed on that unique and ubiquitous molecule, water. The nature and general functions of the major classes of biological molecules are described, but much of the discussion centers on macromolecules, especially the proteins. Macromolecules are of importance because they can provide the information required by living systems for synthesis, growth, development, regulation, and adaptation. All the activities and structures discussed in later chapters depend upon the molecules described here.

The organization of molecules into cellular organelles and cell structure generally is the topic of Chapter 3. Instrumentation and methods are given consideration because at the cellular and molecular levels of biological organization instrumentation is required to analyze dimensional realms far beneath those normally perceived by human senses. Most of the discussion