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Sinopsis

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This book, written by a distinguished scientist in the field, provides a comprehensive overview of the biochemical aspects of all luminous organisms currently known. It is the first and only book that provides chemical information on all known bioluminescence systems, in a single volume. Some 35 different types of bioluminescence organisms are discussed in 10 chapters. The descriptions include: a history of the discovery of luminescence substances such as luciferins, luciferases and photoproteins; the process of research, explaining how luminescent substances have been isolated and purified; the properties of luminescent substances; and the reaction modes and mechanisms involved, as interpreted currently. Important experimental data and graphs are included in the book, making time-consuming reference searches almost unnecessary. Helpful advice for experimentalists is given in an appendix.

Contents:

The Fireflies and Luminous Insects

Luminous Bacteria

The Ostracod Cypridina (Vargula) and Other Luminous Crustaceans

The Jellyfish Aequorea and Other Luminous Coelenterates

The Coelenterazines

Luminous Mollusca

Annelida

Dinoflagellates and Other Protozoa

Luminous Fungi

Other Luminous Organisms

Appendices:

Taxonomic Classification of Selected Luminous Organisms

Lists of Luciferins, Luciferases and Photoproteins Isolated

Miscellaneous Technical Information

Advice to Students Who are Interested in Studying the Chemistry of Bioluminescence