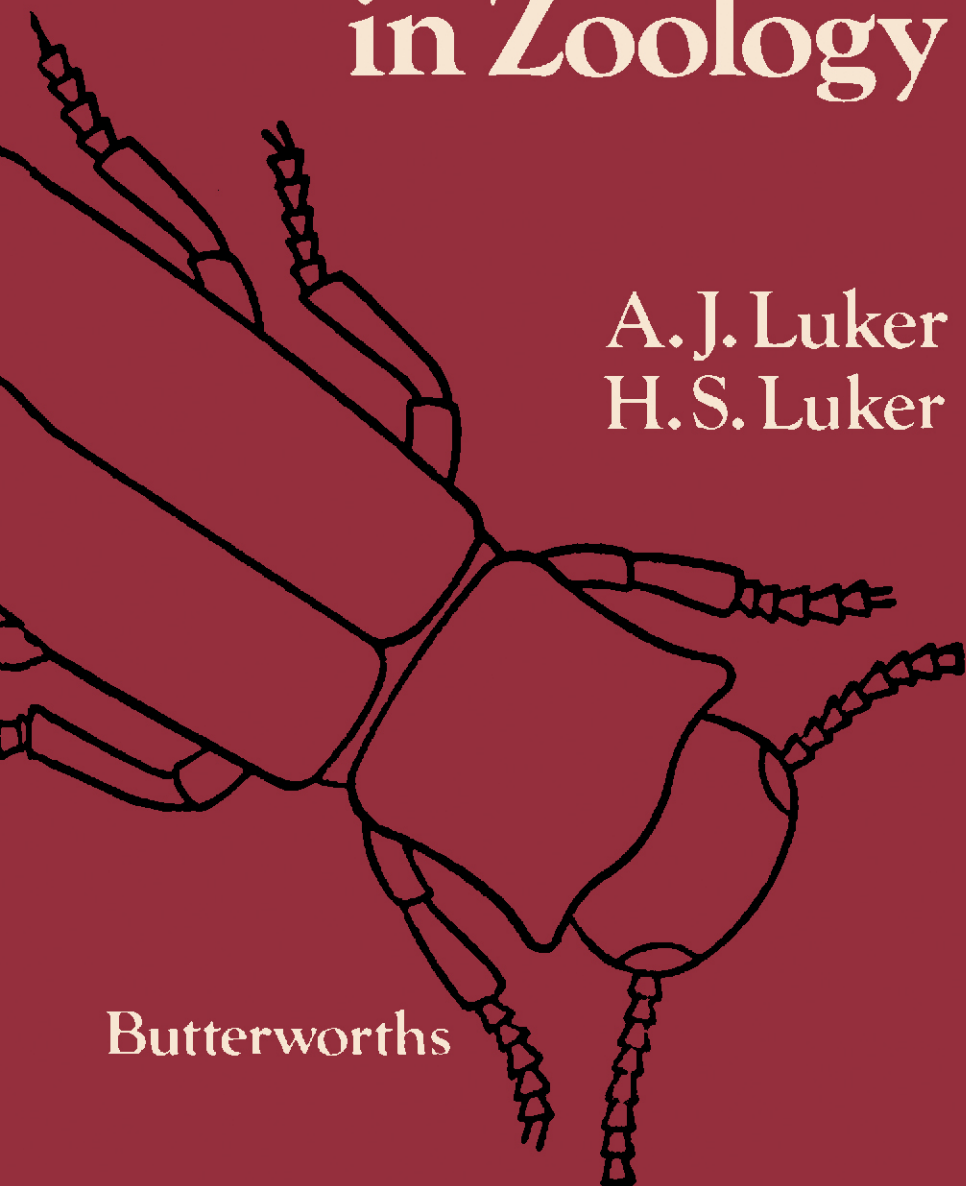


Laboratory Exercises in Zoology

A. J. Luker
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LONDON

BUTTERWORTHS

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England: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd.
London: 88 Kingsway, WC2B 6AB
Australia: Butterworth & Co. (Australia) Ltd.
Sydney: 20 Loftus Street
Melbourne: 343 Little Collins Street
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Canada: Butterworth & Co. (Canada) Ltd.
Toronto: 14 Curity Avenue, 374
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Wellington: 49/51 Ballance Street
Auckland: 35 High Street
South Africa: Butterworth & Co. (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.
Durban: 33/35 Beach Grove

First published 1971

© Butterworth & Co (Publishers) Ltd. 1971

Suggested U.D.C. number: 591·1(076·5)
Suggested Additional number: 591·08
ISBN 0 408 57850 5

Filmset by Filmtypes Services, Scarborough, Yorkshire
Printed by Chapel River Press, Andover, Hampshire

Contents

PART A: PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL INVESTIGATIONS

1. Diffusion	1
2. Osmosis	3
3. Chemical Investigations of some Organic Compounds	9
3.1 —3.4 Chemical Tests for Proteins	12
3.5 —3.15 Chemical Tests for Carbohydrates	15
3.16—3.22 Chemical Tests for Lipids and their Constituents	24
3.23—3.24 Chemical Tests for Two Vitamins	29
4. The Behaviour of Colloids in Solution	30

PART B: ENZYMES

1. Activity of Digestive Enzymes	36
2. Activity of Oxidising and Reducing Enzymes	41
3. Factors Affecting the Rate of Enzyme Action	43

PART C: MICROSCOPICAL PREPARATIONS

1. Notes on the Process of Making Permanent Stained Preparations	48
2. A Simple Staining Technique for the Differentiation of the Nucleus and Cytoplasm	57
3. A Permanent Preparation of Teased Striated Muscle Fibres	59
4. Examination of Locust Testes to Show the Nuclei During Meiosis	60

PART D: METHODS OF MANAGEMENT AND CULTURE OF SOME ANIMALS IN THE LABORATORY

1. General Requirements for a School Animal Room	63
2. Management of the Stock	65
3. Cultural Methods	71

PART E: GENETICS

1. Terms Used in this Section	100
2. The Value of Chi-Squared	102
3. Breeding Experiments with <i>Drosophila</i>	103
3.1 —3.4 Monohybrid Inheritance	105
3.5 —3.8 Independent Assortment	108
3.9 —3.10 Independent Assortment and Linkage	110
3.11—3.14 Sex Linkage	111
4. Breeding Experiments with Mice	113
4.1 —4.10 Monohybrid Inheritance	124
4.11—4.14 Dihybrid Inheritance	125

4.15—4.17 Sex Linkage	126
5. Breeding Experiments with <i>Tribolium</i>	127
5.1 —5.4 Monohybrid Inheritance	127
5.5 —5.6 Dihybrid Inheritance	128
PART F: NUTRITION	
Section I—Feeding Mechanisms	129
1. The Ingestion of Particles and Formation of Food Vacuoles in <i>Paramecium</i>	132
2. Observation of Feeding and the Passage of Food Particles in <i>Daphnia</i>	133
3. Feeding in <i>Hydra</i> . Investigation of the Structure and Function of the Tentacles	134
4. The Feeding Mechanism of Locusts	136
5. Suggestions for the Observation of Feeding in <i>Xenopus</i>	139
6. Fluid Feeders	141
Section II—Analysis	142
1. Chromatography as a Technique for Analysis	142
1.1 A Chromatographic Examination of the Products of Protein Hydrolysis	147
PART G: RESPIRATION	
1. The Production of Carbon Dioxide During Respiration	151
2. Measurement of Respiratory Quotient	152
3. Measurement of the Vital Capacity of the Lungs of Man	156
PART H: CIRCULATION: THE STRUCTURE AND THE PROPERTIES OF BLOOD	
Section I—Circulation	159
1. Observation of Capillary Circulation	159
2. Investigation of Exercise on Pulse Rate	161
3. An Indirect Method of Measuring Human Arterial Blood Pressure Using a Sphygmomanometer and a Stethoscope	162
4. Effect of a Rise in External Temperature on the Rate of Contraction of the Dorsal Blood Vessel of <i>Nereis Diversicolor</i>	166
5. Effect of Chemicals on the Rate of Heart Beat of <i>Daphnia</i>	168
Section II—The structure and properties of blood	170
6. A Red Cell Count Using a Haemocytometer	170
7. Determination of the Haemoglobin Content of the Blood Using the Haldane Haemoglobinometer	174
8. Blood Grouping	175
9. The Clotting of Blood	181
PART I: LOCOMOTION	
1. Movement in the Protozoa	183
2. Movement of the Earthworm	188
3. Movement in <i>Nereis</i>	191
4. Movement in Insects	192
5. The Gastrocnemius Muscle-Nerve Preparation	194
PART J: EXCRETION	
1. Instructions for the Removal and Examination of a Nephridium from the Earthworm	207
2. Examination of the Malpighian Tubules of <i>Locusta</i>	209
3. Test for Urea	209
4. Estimation of Urea in Urine	211

5. Tests for Some Inorganic Constituents of Urine	212
6. Murexide Test for Uric Acid	213

PART K: RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL STIMULI

1. The Effect of Light on a Flagellate Culture	215
2. Responses of a Turbellarian to Different Light Intensities	216
3. Reaction of <i>Lumbricus</i> to Different Light Intensities	217
4. Phototactic Responses of <i>Porcellio Scaber</i>	219
5. Examination of the Changes in the Chromatophores of <i>Xenopus</i> with a Change in the Background	220
6. The Avoiding Reaction of <i>Paramecium</i> in Response to the Presence of Chemicals	222
7. Chemotactic Responses of a Turbellarian	223
8. Demonstration of Kineses in <i>Porcellio Scaber</i>	224

PART L: GROWTH. DEVELOPMENT. REGENERATION

1. Investigation of the Rate of Growth of <i>Carausius Morosus</i>	228
2. Suggestions for Investigating the Growth and Development of <i>Locusta</i>	231
3. A Simple Method for the Examination of the Early Larval Forms of <i>Cyclops</i>	232
4. Growth and Development of the Trout	234
5. Larval Development in <i>Rana</i> or <i>Xenopus</i>	237
6. Development of the Chick Embryo	238
7. Measurements of the Growth Rate of Individual Mice from one Litter	240
8. Regeneration in Planarians	242

APPENDIX 1 REFERENCES, FURTHER READING AND VISUAL AIDS	244
--	-----

APPENDIX 2 TABLE OF CHI-SQUARED	246
---------------------------------	-----

APPENDIX 2 ATOMIC WEIGHTS OF SOME COMMON ELEMENTS	246
---	-----

APPENDIX 3 TABLES OF LOGARITHMS AND ANTI-LOGARITHMS	247
---	-----

INDEX	251
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Preface

These exercises are most suitable for sixth form students studying for Advanced level Zoology or Biology. However, a large proportion of the practical work suggested here could be performed quite successfully by pupils at a lower level in school.

The exercises are concerned mainly with physiology and although some dissection techniques are described this aspect of investigation has been neglected largely because we feel that there are school texts which cover quite adequately dissection methods.

This book has been compiled to provide a compact collection of information required by teachers, technicians and students in practical classes. In selecting the practical work for inclusion we have taken into consideration the demands made by the Zoology and Biology syllabuses of the various Examination Boards. The modern approach to the teaching of biology stresses the importance of practical work. As many schools are without a full time biology laboratory technician, it is often necessary for teachers and pupils to look after livestock and set up apparatus for laboratory investigations. We have taken care over choosing the type of animal whose physiology is to be examined and we have named only those animals which may be accommodated successfully in a school laboratory and which may be obtained from one of the biological suppliers. The materials required for each exercise are listed in each case and where applicable, the names and addresses of suppliers have been included. We have tried to use equipment which is not too costly and where it is possible, we have given details of the construction of some of the pieces of apparatus.

To make the exercises more meaningful we have included several short theoretical introductions but out of necessity these have been kept to a minimum.

We hope that the results of some of these investigations will stimulate further enquiry.

It is impossible to acknowledge the source of all the material included here particularly as some of the exercises have now become traditional in an introductory course in zoology. Nevertheless, we should like to thank the many unnamed colleagues, friends and pupils who have provided us, sometimes unwittingly, with ideas for this text.

Windermere
1969

H.S.L.
A.J.L.

Acknowledgements

We should like to express our thanks to Mrs. E. M. Ramsden who typed the manuscript and Mr. Stuart Thompson who took the photographs for Plates D2, D3, D4, D5, E1 and E2.

We are most grateful to Dr. M. E. Wallace of the Department of Genetics, Cambridge University for her help and advice on the use of mice for teaching genetics. We should also like to thank Dr. Bruce Hobson of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh for advice on the care of *Xenopus* and Mr. J. Haller of Harris Biological Supplies for detailed information on some of the stock animals discussed in the text.

We are indebted to the following who have given permission to quote from their publications or work: The Anti-Locust Research Centre; the Editor of The School Science Review; the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare; the Keeper of the Department of Zoology, The British Museum (Natural History); Blackwell Scientific Publications, Mr. D. Ryman and Mr. M. N. Dunthorne.

We much appreciate the assistance given by the following scientific suppliers: B.D.H. Chemicals, Ltd., T. Gerrard and Co. Ltd., Griffin and George Ltd., Philip Harris Ltd., Kodak Ltd., Matburn Surgical Equipment Ltd., C. F. Palmer Ltd., Shandon Scientific Co. Ltd. and Sandoz Ltd.

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PART A

Physical and Chemical Investigations

1. DIFFUSION

Diffusion is the movement of molecules or ions from a region of high concentration to a region of relatively low concentration and this continues until they are evenly distributed.

Diffusion through a membrane

If a 10% solution of glucose is separated from a 20% solution of glucose by a membrane which is permeable to glucose, after a time the solution on each side will contain 15% glucose and a state of equilibrium is reached when there are as many glucose molecules passing one way through the membrane as there are passing in the opposite direction.

Cell membranes are not permeable to all substances in solution, they are selectively permeable.

Provided that the membrane is permeable a substance may diffuse into the cell from the environment without the cell using any energy during the process. But diffusion alone does not account for the way in which all substances enter cells. In some cases cells are able to take in substances which are in low concentration outside the cell compared with a relatively high concentration in the protoplasm. During this process the cell expends energy and materials are said to be obtained by active transport.