

BOOK REVIEW

Multispecies Toxicity Testing, edited by JOHN CAIRNS, Jr., ISBN 0-08-031936-X; hardcover \$37.50, p. 261, Pergamon Press.

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) has established a new special publication series which aims at providing critical reviews and new prospects in current topics related to chemicals and environment. The book *Multispecies Toxicity Testing* is the first of the series.

There are known more than 5 million chemical compounds and about 50 thousand new ones are synthesized every year, 10,000 of which reaching the market. Therefore, it is very important to predict an impact of a particular compound, above all, on human health and to establish a permissible dose of this compound in a particular element of environment. To my mind, scientific basis of toxicology is not clear, especially in relation to man.

The book *Multispecies Toxicity Testing* consists of 15 chapters:

1. Multispecies Toxicity Tests in the Safety Assessment of Chemicals: Necessity or Curiosity?
2. Scientific Problems in Using Multispecies Toxicity Tests for Regulatory Purposes.
3. Technical Considerations Related to the Regulatory Use of Multispecies Toxicity Tests.
4. What Should Be the Rationale for Bioassays?
5. What Ecologists Expect from Industry?
6. The Role of Multispecies Testing.
7. Population Responses to Chemical Exposure in Aquatic Multispecies System.
8. Correspondence of Laboratory and Field Results: What Are the Criteria for Verification?
9. Environmental Assessments from Simple Test Systems and a Microcosm: Comparisons of Monetary Costs.
10. The Monticello Experiment: A Case Study.
11. Terrestrial Microcosms: Applications, Validation and Cost-Benefit Analysis.
12. Toxicity at Population Level.
13. Toward Interlaboratory (Round-Robin) Testing of a Standardized Aquatic Microcosm.
14. Replicability of Aquatic Multispecies Test Systems.
15. A Synopsis: Workshop on Multispecies Toxicity Tests.

The book *Multispecies Toxicity Testing* is an important contribution to environmental toxicology. All chapters are written by leading specialists, most of whom are able to put their findings in a broad environmental context. Therefore, the book may be understood not only by toxicologists but also by most specialists working on different aspects of environment.

This makes the book useful to almost all environmental scientists in research, research management, chemical manufacturing, regulation, and education, as well as to students considering careers in these areas, for keeping abreast of recent developments in familiar areas and for rapid introduction to principles and approaches in new subject areas.

Lucjan Pawlowski

