

Biochemical Systematics and Evolution. Andrew Ferguson. 194 pp. Halsted Press, 1980. \$42.95.

The goal of this work is to provide an overview and basic foundation of biochemical systematics and evolution for the advanced undergraduate. Ferguson admirably achieves this aim in a lucid, easy-to-read, and relatively unbiased work. The order of presentation of ideas and information is logical and easy to follow. Terms that are unique to the field or are often used in an ambiguous manner are well defined. Several features of the book make it particularly useful, including discussions on the limits of the methods, artifact problems, analysis of data, various methods, and alternative hypotheses. A listing of additional reading for each subject is also provided. Clearly, a book of less than 200 pages cannot go into sufficient detail on such a broad subject to be properly labeled thorough, but this work should be valuable as an undergraduate text or as an introduction for a scientist who is relatively new to the field. I plan to use it to give new graduate students an overview that will serve as a basis for more detailed discussion. I am not aware of another book which so adequately fulfills such a need.—*Robert J. Baker, The Museum, Texas Tech University, Lubbock*