

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION

Capital Science Lectures

“Sexual Signaling on a Cellular Level: Lessons from Plant Reproduction” Presentation by **Daphne Preuss**

University of Chicago, Professor of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology

Suggested Reading List

“Botany for Gardeners: An Introduction and Guide”

by Brian Capon

Did you know that there are nearly 400,000 different plant species in the world today? Or that a third of all plants do not have roots, stems, or leaves? Or that the two groupings of plants with which gardeners mostly work are Angiosperms and Gymnosperms? (Yes, these names do have something to do with sex, but not what you’re thinking. Angiosperms [Greek: *angeion*, vessel, *sperma*, seed] carry their seeds in their fruits; gymnosperms [Greek: *gymnos*, *naked*] produce their seeds in the open spaces of cones—pinecones being the most familiar example.) Understanding the essentials of botany can save the average gardener many hours of frustration. Brian Capon, a botany professor recently retired from California State University, Los Angeles, has written a book in which he combines his interests in gardening, photograph, and art to produce a compact, beautifully illustrated guide that should be subtitled “*what every gardener should know.*”

Published by Timber Press (1992) \$17.95 paperback

“Plant Invaders: The Threat to Natural Ecosystems”

by Quentin C. B. Cronk and Janice L. Fuller

H. G. Wells may never have written a book about alien invaders from other planets. (No groans, please.) But the remarkably prescient and sophisticated science fiction author would surely have understood the grave threat an invading life form can pose to an ecosystem’s original inhabitants. (In “The War of the Worlds” the tables are turned when the Martian invaders are defeated, not by military might, but by their lack of immunity to human diseases. Wells may have based his story on the tragic records of native populations succumbing to European diseases.) **Plant Invaders: The Threat to Natural Ecosystems**, by Quentin C. B. Cronk and Janice L. Fuller, describes what happens when this story is repeated in the plant kingdom. The book is designed to be a practical manual for anyone responsible for land management and conservation. It describes the nature and process of plant invasion, provides case studies of invasive species, and offers strategies for defeating invasive plants, including a biological approach which involves mobilizing the invading species’ natural enemies.

Stylus Publishing Book Group (2001) \$39.95 paperback

(Reiter’s Scientific & Professional Books suggested reading list continued...)

“Instant Notes in Plant Biology”

by A. J. Lack and D. E. Evans

The *Instant Notes* series offers 1st and 2nd year students in undergraduate science courses a means of understanding the fundamentals of the subject. Each book follows an outline format, and each main section opens with a boxed summary of the key notes pertaining to the topic; students can then refer to the subsections which are further broken down into key notes and supporting descriptive text. In **Instant Notes in Plant Biology**, the authors, A. J. Lack and D. E. Evans provide an introduction to plant science which incorporates the latest findings from the fields of molecular biology, biotechnology and ecology, and pay particular attention to the genetic and molecular research done on *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a member of the mustard family which has become the model for molecular research on most other plants. This book is recommended for serious botany students.

Published by Springer-Verlag (2002) \$27.95 paperback

Suggested reading list provided by

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