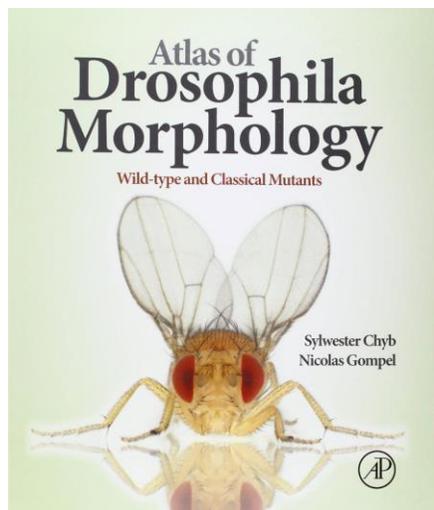


New Book Announcement

Atlas of *Drosophila* Morphology



Chyb, Sylvester, and Nicolas Gompel. 2013. 225 + xvii pp. ISBN: 978-0-12-384688-4. \$136.62. Academic Press, Elsevier Publishing.

Review by Lee Ehrman, State University of New York at Purchase.

Useful, extremely so, an adjective summing up this elegantly produced atlas. And this evaluation comes from an aging professor who has instructed Genetics Laboratory, an undergraduate junior level course, for approaching half a century.

Glossily-paged and large (approximately 11¼" × 9¼"), this hardcover is ringed and opens flatly for more-than-one student at-a-time perusal. The wild-type *D. melanogaster* phenotype is presented for all this hemimetabolous insect's life stages, along with that of the *D. melanogaster* subgroup species: *simulans*, *sechellia*, *mauritiana*,

teissieri, *erecta*, *orena*, *yakuba*, and *santomea*. Other than possibly the sibling species, *D. simulans*, I suspect that this section will prove less utilized as a source of reference than the six marker mutant sections. These are divided into: bristles, wings, other appendages, eyes (shapes and colors), and bodily alterations. All this is followed by several plates depicting side-by-side comparisons among all these oft-employed teaching and research variants. Twenty-one balancer chromosomes are fully annotated in every known detail, a separate illustrated plate for each amply captioned.

In his gracious Foreword, Peter Lawrence calls this long-overdue atlas, lovely. He is correct. It is easier to use repeatedly, though less comprehensive, than our long relied upon "big red book" (by Lindsley, Grell, and Zimm, 1992, Academic Press: NY, for one edition).

Admittedly biased, I must state that these colorful animals are simply beautiful!

Historical Postscript

Lee Ehrman invited us to add this historical postscript sent to Jim Thompson as a hand-written note, dated 10 July 2014.

Jim,

You may be interested, along with "DISers", in this story. When I was a graduate student at Columbia, Th. Dobzhansky, my mentor, told me – with a giggle – of a doctoral oral defense at which he was the external examiner. The candidate referred to "... melanogasters and other insects."

Lee Ehrman

School of Natural and Social Sciences
Purchase College
State University of New York
735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577-1402