

Preface

It is now apparent that detailed studies of behaviour are important in many areas of physiology, psychology, zoology and agriculture. In this book I have attempted to draw together the results of observational studies of behaviour and evidence from the work of those who study ecology, evolution, sociobiology, sensory and motor physiology, physiological psychology, motivation and learning. Wherever possible I have referred to examples of behaviour studies which are relevant to agricultural and medical problems, especially farm animal husbandry and pest control, and I have listed on the previous pages the sections where examples are to be found.

Some of the exciting, current ideas about behaviour are introduced in Chapter 1. Major developments include the links between physiological and behavioural studies of both sensory functioning and motor control mechanisms. The central importance, to all those who study behaviour, of work on motivation is emphasised in the chapter on the allocation of resources. Other chapters which refer to many recent ideas are those concerned with the functions of social behaviour and with the organisation of social groups. Themes which recur in each chapter are the evolution of behaviour, the role of learning and other effects of experience, the changes in behaviour which occur during development, the relevant brain mechanisms and economic applications of such studies.

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