

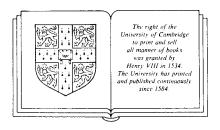
Vertebrate blood cells



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EDITED BY

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Preface

Over two decades have elapsed since the publication of *Comparative Haematology* by Warren Andrew (Grune & Stratton, 1965) in which the haematology of all major animal groups was elegantly reviewed. Since then, there have been several volumes dealing with invertebrate haematology such as *Invertebrate Blood Cells* Volumes I & II (N.A. Ratcliffe & A.F. Rowley, 1981), *The Reticuloendothelial System: A Comprehensive Treatise* Volume III, *Phylogeny & Ontogeny* (N. Cohen & M.M. Sigel, Plenum Press, 1982) and *Blood Cells of Marine Invertebrates* (W.D. Cohen, Alan R. Liss, 1985) but no collected review of vertebrate haematology has appeared. Tremendous advances, however, have been made in vertebrate haematology and immunology since *Comparative Haematology* was published in 1965 and the present volume attempts to bring much of the more recent literature together in a comprehensive form.

The book is divided into six chapters. The first, reviews the possible stages in the evolution of the blood cells typical of all vertebrate classes and compares and contrasts some aspects of invertebrate and vertebrate haematology. Subsequent chapters cover the different vertebrate classes in depth. Each chapter, although written by different authors, has a uniform approach covering fundamental topics such as the structure of the circulatory and lymphatic systems, and blood cell ontogeny, structure and functions. The chapters are copiously illustrated with light and electron micrographs of different blood cell types. The book should find a wide scientific audience including immunologists, clinical and veterinary haematologists, and evolutionary and developmental biologists. The main aim of Vertebrate Blood Cells is to stimulate research into comparative haematology in which so much still remains to be discovered.

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