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JOHN E. BISHOP. *Limnology of a small Malayan river Sungai Gombak*. Dr W. Junk B.V. Publishers. 1973, X and 485 p. w. 67 figs. and 17 photographs (14 coloured). D. F. 120.—

The book presented here is a limnological monograph of an unknown small tropical river in Asia. As such one wonders why this case study has been chosen for publication. We know monographs of Lake Baikal and Lake Ohrid from the same publisher and there is no question to the wide interest of biologists in these very interesting lakes with many rare species. Little work has yet been done on rivers in equatorial regions and this book gives an extensive survey of physical, chemical, floral and faunal analyses of the Gombak River, with emphasis on methods and interpretation of results. As such it is a monograph which may be recommended to everyone who is working on limnology of tropical rivers.

Most chapters deal with the invertebrate fauna and with the physico-chemical aspects of the river. One chapter is dedicated to Algae and the rest of the microflora and fauna is poorly analysed from the view-point of environmental study. For example no mention is made of the fact that more species of Desmids occur in the lower section of the river and that this group is entirely lacking in the upper course and that this distribution pattern might be related to the extreme paucity of minerals in the upper section. The qualification: oligotrophic, which characterizes the river in general, is nowhere mentioned in the book. Eutrophication as a cause of enrichment of minerals and influencing the diversity in the lower course, is considered. However, in a chapter on pollution it is stated that this fact does not seriously influence the river. This statement is not quite clearly explained. In our opinion the influence of the surrounding cultivated and uncultivated regions bordering the river should have been given more attention.

On p. 162 the absence of Porifera in the river is connected with the paucity of ions in the water. This is not in agreement with findings in the Amazone and comparable rivers in Surinam (Dutch Guiana). Other faunistic and also physico-chemical aspects are in many respects similar to those of the rivers in Surinam.

There are many tables and graphs in the book, but no picture is given of any of the species involved. Some tables are too complicated and not easy to read. Still the book gives a good deal of information on a tropical river and can be recommended to students of tropical limnology.

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