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Werner Peters

Peritrophic Membranes

With 80 Figures



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Preface

The present review shows that peritrophic membranes occur widely in the animal kingdom, that they have many functions and that they deserve more attention than usual. It is unfortunate that many zoologists have never heard of peritrophic membranes or relate this term only with insects. Richards and Richards (1977) in their review of peritrophic membranes in insects complained about the vagueness and uncertainty in many aspects of these structures. Therefore, it seems to be time to give the first comprehensive review of our knowledge about peritrophic membranes in animals – and not only insects. The state of the art in this field requires a reliable source of data which can help to answer open questions, and which can facilitate search in the literature, in order to help those who want to solve problems with modern methods.

There is a bulk of information concerning morphological aspects, but there is a gap of information with respect to modern and functional aspects – or as A. G. Richards pointed out: “It is time for PM workers to become knowledgeable in current methods of cell biology and to apply such methods” (Richards and Richards 1977).

WERNER PETERS

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