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私の本棚

My favorite books

An ornament of an 8-cell stage sea squirt that I received from Prof. Satoh in commemoration of his retirement.

ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL: The New Science of Evo Devo and the Making of the Animal Kingdom

This book is recommended as good reading on evolutionary developmental biology. Its title is quoted from Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species." The book gives a very easy-to-understand story about how beautiful forms of various forms of life were created in relation to development and evolution.

FIVE KINGDOMS

This book is recommended as a source of basic knowledge, allowing you to answer when asked by an alien from outer space, "What forms of life live on the Earth?" The book classifies the world of living things into five: the kingdom prokaryotae, protest kingdom, fungus kingdom, plant kingdom and the animal kingdom, and describes division by division the characteristics of living things belonging to each kingdom. You will be surprised to find exceptionally intriguing living things, which you may have known nothing about before.

Developmental Biology of Ascidians

This is a "Bible" for those who study the sea squirt. It outlines sea squirt's fertilization, embryonic development, cell lineage, development of organs, and reproduction. The sea squirt was able to develop into a model organism that we see today thanks to accumulation of the numerous experiments introduced in this book, including the experiment that shed light on sea squirt's cell lineage. A new version of this book authored by Professor Satoh will be published before long.

FROM DNA TO DIVERSITY

This book explains evolutionary developmental biology a little more technically than "Endless Forms Most Beautiful." The reader will know what gene alterations and how they were instrumental in evolution that allowed living things to acquire the forms they have now. This book will allow its readers to open their eyes to the fascination of evolutionary developmental biology. A Japanese version is also available.

A Picture Book of Seashore Living Things (in Japanese)

Using a number of color photos, this book introduces living things commonly found at Japanese seashores. Every year a part of our lab members have a seaside practical study session to collect seashore creatures, where we encounter new creatures each time. My students often ask, "Mr. Hotta, what is this creature?" By having a look at this picture book beforehand, I can pretend to be knowledgeable about almost everything on such occasions.

EMBRYOLOGY

Differences in the form of living things derive from differences in the style of development. As such, comparison of developmental processes is indispensable to explain the diversity of form. This book uses numerous figures and photos to offer an easy-to-understand explanation as to embryonic development of animals belonging to different divisions. Elaborate sketches of embryonic development are beautiful and pleasant to see.

Development and Evolution (The "Phylogeny" Series) (in Japanese)

All living things have seemingly contradictory properties – commonality and diversity. This book is a compilation of currently available knowledge about evolutionary developmental questions related to animals, such as: How can we logically explain why living things have come to acquire these properties?; How did multicellular organisms originate?; How has the formation of the longitudinal and dorso-ventral axis evolved?.