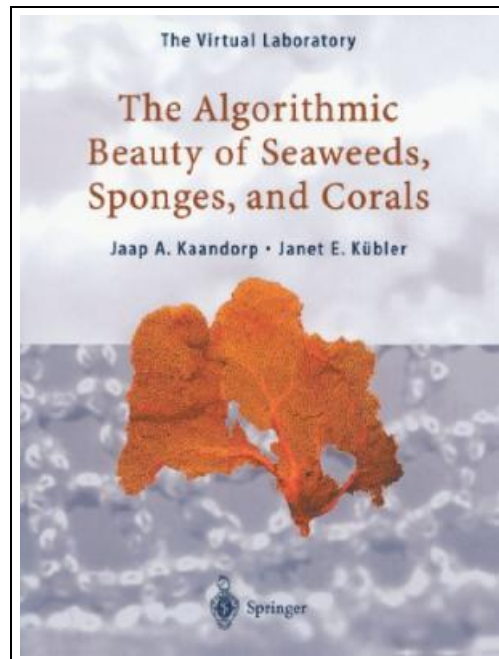


The Algorithmic Beauty of Seaweeds, Sponges and Corals



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THE ALGORITHMIC BEAUTY OF SEaweEDS, SPONGES AND CORALS



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Springer-Verlag Berlin and Heidelberg GmbH & Co. K. Paperback. Condition: New. 193 pages. Dimensions: 11.1in. x 8.1in. x 0.6in.rowth and form of marine organisms inhabiting hard substrata, the Gmarine sessile organisms, is characterized by a number of remarkable properties. One remarkable feature of these organisms is that many of them can be characterized as modular organisms. Modular organisms are typically built of repeated units, the modules, which might be a polyp in a coral colony or a frond in seaweeds. In most cases, the module has a distinctive form, while the growth form of the entire colony is frequently an indeterminate form. Indeterminate growth indicates that the same growth process may result in an infinite number of different realizations of the growth form. This is in contrast to unitary organisms such as vertebrates and insects, in which a single-celled stage develops into a well-defined, determinate structure. In many cases the growth process in modular organisms leads to complex shapes, which are often quite difficult to describe in words. In most of the biological literature these forms are only described in qualitative and rather vague terms, such as thinly branching, tree-shaped and irregularly branching. Another major characteristic of marine sessile organisms is that there is frequently a strong impact of the physical environment on the growth process, leading to a variety of growth forms. Growth by accumulation of modules allows the organism to fit its shape to its environment i. e. , have plasticity. In many seaweeds, sponges, and corals, differences in exposure to water movement cause significant changes in morphology. A good example of this plasticity is the Indo-Pacific stony coral *Pocillopora damicornis* (Veron and Pichon 1976) shown in Plg. r. i. In very sheltered environments, this species has a thin-branching growth form. The growth form gradually transforms to a more compact shape when the exposure to water movement increases. This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from Roseburg, OR, La Vergne, TN. Paperback.



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