

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910298331003321
Titolo	Annual, Lunar, and Tidal Clocks : Patterns and Mechanisms of Nature's Enigmatic Rhythms // edited by Hideharu Numata, Barbara Helm
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tokyo : , : Springer Japan : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2014
ISBN	4-431-55261-8
Edizione	[1st ed. 2014.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (361 p.)
Disciplina	570 571.1 590 591.5 591.7 597
Soggetti	Animal migration Cytology Physiology Neurosciences Psychobiology Human behavior Animal Migration Cell Biology Animal Physiology Neuroscience Behavioral Neuroscience
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

There is more to biological rhythms than circadian clocks. This book aims at promoting the exciting potential of a deeper understanding of circannual, circatidal, and circalunar clocks. It highlights new developments, summarizes existing knowledge, and integrates different perspectives with the tools and ideas of diverse fields of current biology. For predominantly pragmatic reasons, research in recent decades was mostly concerned with circadian clocks. Clocks on other timescales, however, have been largely neglected and therefore still appear "enigmatic". Thanks to the rapid development of methods in molecular biology as well as in ecology, we are now able to re-approach these clocks. Laboratories around the world are showing fresh interest and substantial progress is being made in many independent projects. The book's two sections address the moon-derived circatidal, circasemilunar, and lunar cycles on the one hand (10 chapters), and the sun-derived circannual cycles on the other (6 chapters). This work brings together authors with an expansive array of expertise and study systems, ranging from tidal cycles of marine invertebrates to annual cycles of birds and mammals, and from behavioral to genetic and epigenetic backgrounds. While great challenges remain to be mastered, the book aims at conveying the excitement of unraveling, broadly, the rhythms of life.
