

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782620303321
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Titolo	Life under the sun [[electronic resource] /] / Peter A. Ensminger
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT, : Yale University Press, c2001
ISBN	1-281-72259-6 9786611722593 0-300-13352-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xii, 276 p.)) : ill
Disciplina	571.4/55
Soggetti	Photobiology Photoreceptors Light - Physiological effect Vision
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [201]-258) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1 .Vision at the Threshold -- 2. The Five Percent Solution to Vision -- 3. A More Delightful Vision -- 4 .A Burning Issue -- 5. A SAD Tale -- 6 .The Purple Disease -- 7 .A Novel Method of Weed Control -- 8 .Light and Beer -- 9. Phycomyces, the Fungus That Sees -- 10. Dictyostelium, the Amoeba and the Slug -- 11. High Hopes for Hypericin -- 12 .Turning on a Butterfly -- 13 .Blue Moons and Red Tides -- 14. Photosynthesis and the Great Salt Lake -- 15. Too Much of a Good Thing -- Appendix: A Menagerie of Molecules -- Notes -- Glossary -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Which fungus is as sensitive to light as the human eye? What are the myths and facts about the ozone hole, tanning, skin cancer, and sunscreens? What is the effect of light on butterfly copulation? This entertaining collection of essays explores how various organisms-including archaebacteria, slime molds, fungi, plants, insects, and humans-sense and respond to sunlight.The essays in Peter A. Ensminger's book cover vision, photosynthesis, and phototropism, as well as such unusual topics as the reason why light causes beer to develop a "skunky" odor. He introduces us to the kinds of eyes that

have evolved in different animals, including those in a species of shrimp that is ostensibly eyeless; gives us a better appreciation of color vision; explains how plowing fields at night may be used to control weeds; and tells about variegate porphyria, a metabolic disease that makes people very sensitive to sunlight and may have afflicted King George III of England. These engaging essays present a complicated yet fascinating subject in an accessible way. The book will be treasured by anyone interested in the wonders of biology.
