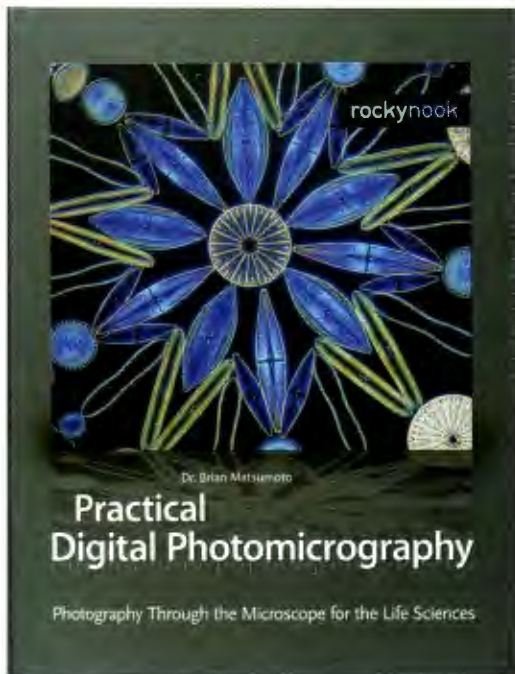


This is stated to be a guide to practical recording methods using digital cameras, webcams, 35mm cameras, and more. The author chooses not to use commonly-accepted terms such as photomicrography, preferring his own, jarring, “photo-microscopy” – it is quite unclear why. His way of writing veers towards the dramatic in places – “secrets of images and resolution” for example – but on the whole the information is often sensible and clearly set out.

Something is said of digital sensors and of digital cameras of various types and of digital files, but it is often necessary to look at what is said here in the light of more widely-accepted work from established authorities. This inexpensive book also might, just, be worth adding to an existing library of microscopy, in spite of a fair number of typos in the text, and in spite of some eccentric advice and opinions in its pages. But take care in using it!

B Matsumoto – *Practical digital photomicrography*. Santa Barbara: Rocky Nook, 2010. pp.175, hardback, £29.41 (Amazon). ISBN 978-1-933952-07-9.



At first sight this is an attractive volume by an experienced microscopist. On opening the book the wide line-spacing and very wide margins are striking, and so are many of the illustrations: they are almost all greatly oversized. As one example of many, there are eight successive pictures, each measuring no less than seven inches square, included merely to illustrate the effects of colour filters with monochrome film, and the effect on colour temperature of lowering the voltage of the lamp. This is a total waste of space.

And so to the content of chapter one – introduction to the microscope. This has ten pages, one of which is fully taken up by an illustration of a tissue section, and no fewer than four other pages each carrying an illustration measuring 5½ inches square showing the effect of focussing and centring the condenser. There remains, of course, very little space to provide any helpful text on the subject.

This goes on throughout the book, through the lens (22 pages); selecting microscope accessories (12 pages); digital concepts (10 pages); digital SLRs (20 pages); advantages of a dedicated digital camera (10 pages); using the cameras (16 pages); improving the image (26 pages); improving the image with software (24 pages); and buying a microscope (11 pages). Every chapter has this amazing waste of space with decorative oversized pictures taking up much of the pages, and thus conveying relatively very little actual information. A glossary and a bibliography of sixteen titles completes the book: there is no index.

I cannot recommend this book for purchase.

Brian Bracegirdle