

**Williams, Brian**

**Biostatistics. Repr.** (English) Zbl 0860.62082  
London: Chapman & Hall. x, 201 p. (1994).

This book is an introduction to statistics for students of the life sciences, particularly for field and laboratory biologists, but also for those studying agriculture and medicine. The book stresses the concepts and ideas that underlie the most important statistical methods used in biology. These concepts and ideas are placed in a narrative structure and the same problems are considered from different angles and in progressively more detail. Examples and illustrations from the biological literature are used. The contents are:

1. Why mathematics? 2. Probability; 3. Representations; 4. Measures; 5. Distributions; 6. Testing hypotheses; 7. Comparisons; 8. Analysis of variance; 9. Regression; 10. Tables.

Most of the examples have an ecological bias but illustrate principles which have direct relevance for biologists involved in laboratory work. The carefully structured approach begins with basic concepts and then progresses towards a clear appreciation of the need for and use of analysis of variance and regression, including the use of statistical computer packages. This very useful book will give students a sound grasp of the key principles of biological statistics without overwhelming detail, and will allow students to quickly apply techniques to their own work and data.

Reviewer: [T.Postelnicu \(București\)](#)

**MSC:**

- [62P10](#) Applications of statistics to biology and medical sciences; meta analysis
- [62-01](#) Introductory exposition (textbooks, tutorial papers, etc.) pertaining to statistics
- [92-01](#) Introductory exposition (textbooks, tutorial papers, etc.) pertaining to biology
- [92B15](#) General biostatistics

**Keywords:**

[ecology](#); [examples](#); [testing hypotheses](#); [tables](#); [agriculture](#); [medicine](#); [analysis of variance](#); [regression](#); [statistical computer packages](#)