

Buchbesprechungen

37. Leis, J. M. & T. Trnski: The larvae of Indo-Pacific shorefishes. – New South Wales University Press (in association with the Australian Museum), PO Box 1, Kensington NSW, Australia 2033. ISBN 0-86840-251-6. 371 pp., 83 figs.

Understanding of the biology of fishes cannot be adequate without knowledge of their ontogenetic stage and their ecology. This is especially true for marine fishes whose larvae (usually pelagic) and adults are ecologically very different. Fish larvae are still very poorly known and their identification in rich tropical marine fauna is extremely difficult; obviously, identification of larvae is important for meaningful systematic and ecological researches. This book has been planned as a companion volume to Leis & Rennis, 1983, Larvae of Indo-Pacific Coral Reef fishes, which described larvae of 50 families. This second volume provides data on the larvae of 53 additional families of the vast Indo-West Pacific region (from southeast Africa to southern Japan, Hawaii, northern Australia and Easter Island). After 27 pages of Introduction, Explanation, Glossary, etc., 54 families are described. A typical family description includes the following entries; adults (brief characterization of the family), spawning mode, development at hatching, morphology (shape, myomeres, gut, gas bladder, head spination, fin formation, eyes, size, morphometrics, pigments), similar families, basis of description, meristic tables. Each family is illustrated by several line-drawings. The text ends with a 17 pages bibliography, an index and an appendix updating the 1983 volume. The "Coral Reef Fishes" volume quickly became an essential publication on Indo-Pacific fish larvae; no doubt that this "Shorefishes" volume too will become necessary for those ichthyologists identifying marine larval fishes.

M. Kottelat

38. Renner, M. Kükenthal's Leitfaden für das Zoologische Praktikum. 19., neubearbeitete Auflage. – Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart 1984. 505 S., 229 Abb. ISBN 3-437-20323-1

Der Rezensent geht davon aus, daß jeder Leser mit dem „Kükenthal“ Zoologe wurde. Den didaktischen und praktischen Wert dieses Vademecums vorausgesetzt, wird man sich ehrlicherweise daran erinnern, mit welchem Ungezick bis Gefühllosigkeit die Kurstiere oft getötet und zermanscht wurden. Deshalb stellt sich der Neubearbeiter in seinem Vorwort prophylaktisch dieser Problematik und meint, moderne Lehrmittel ersetzen nicht den Erkenntnisgewinn, den der Student (der frühen Semester!) am „realen Objekt“ gewinnen könne. Wenn nur bei jedem Praktikanten diese gern beschworene Ehrfurcht vor der Natur zu ernsthaftem Beobachten und Lernen führt! Glücklicherweise nimmt man jetzt Tiere, die nicht gefährdet (Miesmuschel statt Teichmuschel), die sogar züchtbar sind. Damit liegt man wenigstens auf Schlachthofniveau – und jeder, der das nicht verantworten will, darf nicht Zoologie studieren, so wie er ja auch Vegetarier sein sollte. Ich gebe mich aber doch der Hoffnung hin, daß mit der Zeit die Unterrichtsfilme und Modelle die zu Lernzwecken geschundene Kreatur erlösen.

E. Popp

39. Hammen, L. van der (Editor): Glossary of acarological terminology Vol. III Holothyrida by L. van der Hammen – SPB Academic Publishing bv, The Hague 1989. 116 pp., 42 figs. ISBN 90-5103-029-0

Acarologists live between two worlds: this of the insects, that of the spiders; consequently they mingle the languages. To make equivocation the redblooded acarologist van der Hammen founded a glossary of acarological terminology – twenty years ago. Specialists of all groups of mites promised to collaborate; nine volumes had been planned. But three volumes were written – by the editor himself. He has („wohlverdient“) retired now and volume 3 is his last contribution; the last at all?. The glossary proceeded from Grandjean's school, and distinctly represents a particular view of acarology, an indispensable aid to a structuralist approach in the study of acarid and chelicerate evolution. Volume III about Holothyrids is a systematic index too, but comprises more than two hundred entries, mostly referenced to figures, and several appended lists in French and German. This volume contains the elements which will contribute to the recognition and definition of morphologies of mites for future novelties. E. Popp

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