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### Book Review

Filipucci, M. G., Ed. (1995): *Proceedings of the II Conference on Dormice (Rodentia, Myoxidae)*. Hystrix N.S., Vol. 6 (1994), 340 pp.

This volume includes 31 papers presented at the second conference on dormice held at Fuscaldo, Italy, from 15–19 May, 1993. Looking at the contents of these papers alone, this must have been a very successful meeting. Five headings form a frame for the contributions. Under “Systematics and Evolution” Daams and de Bruijn propose a classification of the Gliridae on the basis of dental morphology, a comprehensive review which includes information on all the fossil taxa as well. Storch discussed the phylogeny of Palearctic dormouse genera, and further fourteen authors present new data on chromosomes and biochemical and morphological variation of dormice. Violani and Zava analyze the scientific correspondence of Linnaeus and Scopoli and document that Carolus Linnaeus was totally unacquainted with the edible dormouse which he named *Sciurus Glis*, and that he made mistakes when copying from letters of his Slovenian correspondent Giovanni Antonio Scopoli. As a consequence, they fix the classical type locality in Slovenia, and propose a new name for the subspecies of central Europe. The chapter “Biogeography” contains seven papers on the distribution and status of dormice in Italy, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, and Croatia. “Morphology and Physiology” contains four papers on thermoregulation, coronary artery anatomy, cranial variation, and a review of phallic and bacular anatomy of the European species. “Ecology and Ethology” contains seven papers on predators, dispersal behaviour, population density, population structure and dynamics, and cave dwelling behaviour. Two papers deal with the biology of non-European species, the Japanese (*Glirulus*) and African (*Graphiurus*) dormice. Under “Conservation and Management” three papers conclude the volume. They deal with conservation aspects in England and Italy, and Carpaneto and Cristaldi present an interesting review of the relations between dormice and humans in the past and present.

The conference also discussed the at that time brandnew conclusion of Mary Ellen Holden, expressed in her chapter on the Myoxidae in the 1993 book “Mammal Species of the World” (Wilson & Reeder eds.), that Myoxidae was the valid name for the group. Except for Daams and de Bruijn, most other authors in this volume now use Myoxidae, and Ernesto Capanna states in his Forword: “Now it is sure. The amusing sleepy-head of our woods can no more be called *Glis glis*; and his relatives can no more be called Gliridae: rules of nomenclature priority impose the names *Myoxus glis* and Myoxidae.” It is amusing that a small community of experts on this family can easily accept this change as a kind of routine in living taxonomy, while at the same time a battle is going on in the pages of the “Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature” in order to save the Gliridae.

Maria Grazia Filipucci, one of the organizers of the meeting and now editor of its proceedings, is to be congratulated for this interesting volume on the dormice family, whatever the scientific community will agree upon to call it in the future. R. Hutterer (Bonn)

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