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Book Review

Bubenik, G. A. & A. B. Bubenik, Eds. (1990): Horns, Pronghorns, and Antlers: Evolution, Morphology, Physiology, and Social Significance. 562 pp., 204 Ill. Springer, New York.

This book contains 19 chapters written by 19 authors, among them the two editors. All deal with either evolution and morphology or with physiology, genetics, and behaviour of horns, pronghorns, and antlers. In the first chapter of more than 100 printed pages, Anthony B. Bubenik gives an interesting and stimulating lecture on the evolution of horns, pronghorns, and antlers. This as well as many of the following contributions are carefully illustrated. The evolution of cranial appendages is considered by Christine M. Janis, and especially in Giraffoidea by Charles S. Churcher. The families Muntiacidae and Cervidae are reviewed by Colin P. Groves and Peter Grubb. Alan W. Gentry reviews the evolution and dispersal of African Bovidae. The second part of the book deals with aspects of physiology, genetics, and behaviour. A kind of monograph of the pronghorn is given by Bart W. O'Gara. Various aspects of antler development, endrocrine regulation, neural control, experimental induction, antler cycles, effects of nutrition and social status, genetic variability, and use of antlers in biomedical research are described by Ludek Bartos, Robert D. Brown, George A. Bubenik, Charles S. Churcher, Peter F. Fennessy, Richard J. Goss, Zbigniew Jaczewski, Kim T. Scribner, Antoine J. Sempéré, Michael H. Smith, James M. Suttie, Teodor Stelmasiak, and Simone van Mourik.

The variety of subjects and authors along with the beautiful illustrations make this book a stimulating lecture and a must for all people scientifically interested in horned mammals.

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