

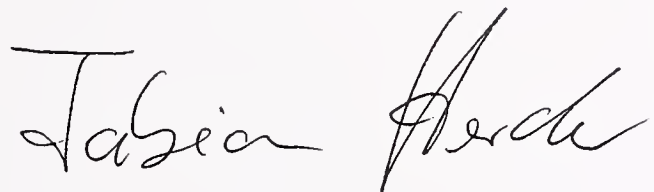
Editorial

This special volume of the Bonn zoological Bulletin (BzB) constitutes the second part of the ZFMK type catalogues. It contains records of vertebrate type specimens housed in the museum's scientific collections, subdivided into the sections Theriology (mammals), Ornithology (birds), Herpetology (amphibians and reptiles), and Ichthyology (fish). Together with the catalogues of the arthropod type specimens published in volume 58 of the BzB, this work provides an overview of the most valuable assets of the museum's scientific collections. Summarizing core data on virtually all animal taxa that are represented by type specimens in Bonn, these catalogues will serve taxonomists as a valuable tool and guide when working in or referring to the institute's extensive collections.

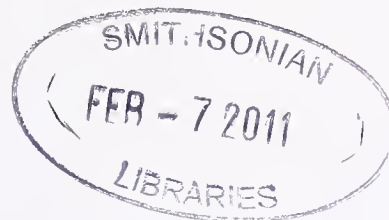
The last comprehensive publication on vertebrate type material in the ZFMK dates back to 1984, and was published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Museum Koenig as a public zoological museum. Since then, the number of vertebrate types in the ZFMK increased considerably (birds) or even doubled (mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fishes). This increase underlines the importance of natural history museums as institutions that guarantee the maintenance of and access to scientific material, and highlights the need for continuous, substantial work on basic taxonomy.

I thank all authors who contributed to the two volumes of the type catalogues for their continuous efforts. Compiling such catalogues and verifying the accuracy of the data therein are extremely time-consuming tasks that are often largely underestimated. I am especially happy for having been able to cover virtually all groups of organisms represented by type specimens in the ZFMK, thereby contributing to an inventory of the fascinating animal collections available in Bonn.

With best wishes to all readers, authors and "BzB-Team" members,



Fabian Herder (Editor-in-Chief, Fish Curator at ZFMK)
Bonn, December 2010



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