25. Sterba, G.: Süsswasserfische der Welt. – Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart. ISBN 3-8001-7165-1. 1987. 915 pp.

Since its first publication in 1959, this book is a standard work for aquarists; this was especially true for the 1973 edition, which for its time was certainly the most complete book on fishes kept in aquarium. Although much improved, I think that the 1987 edition of the ‚Sterba' is no longer so complete, especially if one considers the huge number of ‚new' fish species imported in the last years. Some families have been completely reworked (among others Cichlidae and ‚Cyprinodontidae'), but are still far from ‚complete'. Some 2000 species are described. The illustrations include 600 line drawings (whose sources are not given), 290 black and white, and 1130 colour photographs grouped in 320 plates, which are grouped together in the text. The colour photoraphs are good and well printed. There are sorrily many species showed on the colour plates which are not discussed in the text (*Betta smaragdina*, *B. edithae*, *Parosphromenus parvulus*, *P. filamentosus*, *Sphaerichthys acrostoma*, *Parasphaerichthys ocellatus* for the single family Belontiidae). Many plates are misidentified and this could certainly have been avoided by a careful review by competent specialists; for example, 3 of the illustrations of 13 species of Tetraodontidae mentioned in the text are misidentified (pl. 320: *Tetraodon fluviatilis* is *T. nigroviridis*, *T. palembangensis* is *T. biocellatus*; pl. 319: *Carinotetraodon somphongsi* is *C. lorteti*). The species illustrated on pl. 58 as *Rasbora somphongsi* (Cyprinidaeé) is most probably a Characidae. M. Kottelat

26. Whitmore, T. C. (ed.): Biogeographical evolution of the Malay Archipelago. – Oxford monographs on biogeography 4. – Oxford Science Publications, Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1987. 147 pp. ISBN 0-19-854185-6.

This volume of essays represents the state of knowledge on South-East Asian biogeography in 1985. The major zoogeographical boundary known as Wallace's line which crosses the Malay Archipelago has long attracted attention. The biogeography of the area has been (still is) revolutionized by the discovery of plate tectonics. In Chapter 2, Audley-Charles presents a new reconstruction of South-East Asian plate tectonic history, showing southest Laurasia to contain in Burma, Thailand, Sumatra and Malaya several terranes which are continental fragments rifted from Australia. In Chapter 3, Takhtajan reviews angiosperms origin and dispersal and hypothesizes a cradle lying „somewhere between Asia and Fiji", an hypothesis not supported by the data of Truswell, Kershaw and Sluiter (Chapter 4) on Australian fossil angiosperms. Morley & Flenley (Chapter 5) review evidences for changes in sea levels, degree of seasonality in precipitations and variations in temperatures during the late Tertiary and Quaternary, presenting new evidences for a seasonal climate in the Malay Peninsula during the middle Pleistocene.

Additional chapters discuss mammals (Musser), plant geography (van Balgooy) and Lepidoptera of Sulawesi (Holloway). Within these groups, present ranges in no way reflect the possible dual origin of Sulawesi by collision of parts of Laurasia and Gondwana. M. Kottelat

27. Schleich, H. H. & W. Kästle: Reptile Egg-Shells SEM Atlas. – G. Fischer Verl., Stuttgart-New York, 1988. 123 S., 45 Tafeln, 53 Zeichnungen.

Hier wird die erste, zusammenfassende Untersuchung elektronenmikroskopischer Eischalenstrukturen von rezenten und fossilen Reptilien vorgelegt. Nach einem einführenden Kapitel, in dem die Eischalenstrukturen rezenter Reptilienordnungen in bezug auf ihre morphologischen und chemischen Besonderheiten verglichen werden, folgt im speziellen Teil des Buches die Vorstellung von 5 Ordnungen (Crocodylia, Testudines, Sauria, Serpentes, Amphisbaenia) mit insgesamt 21 Familien (Alligatoridae, Crocodylidae, Chelidae, Cheloniidae, Emydidae, Kinosternidae, Pelomedusindae, Testudinidae, Trionychidae, Agamidae, Chamaeleonidae, Cordylidae, Gekkonidae, Iguanidae, Lacertidae, Varanidae, Boidae, Colubridae, Crotalidae, Viperidae und Amphisbaenidae) und 70 Arten. Es sei allerdings angemerkt, daß heute Grubenottern (Crotalinae) und Echte Vipern (Viperinae) als Unterfamilien in derselben Familie (Viperidae) zusammengefaßt werden. Im Schema der Darstellung wird jeweils eine Tafel mit elektronenmikroskopischen Schwarzweißfotos einer Textseite mit Blockdiagrammen des Schalenaufbaus gegenübergestellt. Der Text ist knapp gehalten, mit reichem Datenmaterial versehen und auf das Wesentliche beschränkt. Den Abschluß bilden ein umfangreiches Literaturverzeichnis und ein Register. Das Buch ist mit seiner Fülle an Information und seiner Übersichtlichkeit in hervorragender Weise als spezielles Bestimmungsbuch für Eischalen und Eischalenreste heute lebender oder fossiler Reptilien geeignet. Wegen des hohen Aufwandes bleibt sein Anwendungsbereich jedoch auf den wissenschaftlich arbeitenden Spezialisten beschränkt. U. Gruber