

Buchbesprechungen

20. Smith, H. M. & R. B. Smith: Synopsis of the Herpetofauna of Mexico, Volume VII, Bibliographic Addendum IV and Index, Bibliographic Addenda II-IV, 1979-1991. - University Press of Colorado, 1993. 1082 S. ISBN 0-87081-284-X.

Dieser umfangreiche Band ist ein einziger Index zur Herpetofauna Mexikos. Er folgt mit jeweils einer Einführung einem Primärindex und einer Synonymliste einem durchgängigen Schema bei jeder der behandelten Gruppen. Diese sind in der Klasse der Amphibien nach Caudata (Schwanzlurche), Anura (Froschlurche) und Gymnophiona (Blindwühlen), bei den Reptilien nach Testudines (Schildkröten), Sauria (Echsen), Amphisbaenia (Doppelschleichen), Serpentes (Schlangen) und Crocodylia (Krokodile) geordnet. Für jede Art oder Unterart gibt es eine Autorenliste mit Seitenzahlen. Den Schluß bildet ein Literaturverzeichnis von 323 Seiten. Ein vollständiges und umfangreiches Nachschlagewerk für den spezialisierten Systematiker und Museums-Herpetologen.

U. Gruber

21. Ax, P. (ed.): Microfauna Marina, Volume 9. - Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, Jena, New York, 1994. 350 pp. ISBN 3-437-30779-7 hbk; ISSN 0176-3296.

"What's up in Göttingen?" one may title this volume, because 16 (of 18) articles are by authors of the group around editor Peter Ax in Göttingen. Fortunately this has no influence on the high quality of the contributions. The majority of papers concerns species descriptions of the marine microfauna: Plathelminthes - Seriata; Polychaeta - Hesionidae; Plathelminthes - Typhloplanoida; Plathelminthes - Dalyelloida; Crustacea - Copepoda; Polychaeta - Syllidae. Several papers are based on fine-structural work (all by Ulrich Ehlers and coauthors) describing spermiogenesis, protonephridia, epidermis, and body wall musculature: Beate Sopott-Ehlers describes the fine-structure of female gametes of free-living Plathelminthes ("Turbellaria").

Two larger contributions are of more general interest: Birger Neuhaus presents 96 pages of "Ultrastructure of elementary canal and body cavity, ground plan, and phylogenetic relationships of the Kinorhyncha", a thorough TEM-study on a largely unknown group. A phylogenetic analysis (applying the Hennigian methodology) of the Aschelminthes is also provided. The 50 pages by Thomas Bartolomaeus "On the ultrastructure of the coelomic lining in the Annelida, Sipuncula and Echiura" provide for the first time a clear and unequivocal definition of (eu-)coelomate Spiralia: The inner (visceral) coelomatic wall of true (eu-)coelomates is always built up by epithelio-muscle cells and functions as a muscle sheath of the gut. This should also clarify the long-lasting discussion about groups such as Mollusca and Nemertinea, which are often considered as "coelomate", although lacking this character entirely. A small contribution by Ulrich Ehlers on the clear lack of the "Pseudocoel" in Nematoda should finally clarify also this question resp. mis-spelling.

Summing up, the present volume of "Microfauna Marina" can be recommended not only for taxonomic specialists of the marine microfauna. It includes also important contributions to increase our understanding of the phylogenetic relationships of spiralian and aschelminth phyla.

G. Haszprunar

22. Stachowitsch, M.: The Invertebrates. An Illustrated Glossary. - Wiley-Liss, New York, Chichester, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1992. 676 pp. ISBN 0-471-83294-4 hbk; ISBN 0-471-56192-4 pbk.

This is an unique and in current times of specialization nearly incredible contribution, the significance of which cannot be estimated too high. The author presents morphological and anatomical terms of the whole animal kingdom (with the exception of vertebrates) usually down to the level of traditional classes. All in all 77 taxa are described by more than 10.000 terms, which are illustrated by nearly 80 tables.

Each taxon is represented by a full page schematic drawing showing the generalized body plan as well as variations of features, which are important for morphology or systematics. Terms are arranged alphabetically, each term is shortly defined with cross citations of other terms which are explained elsewhere. The author did a very careful work, I could not find any misnomer throughout the book.

In addition, German equivalents of all entries are provided. These are of particular importance for the non-German speaking world and provide a key for the (usually classic) German literature. I would like to see also French equivalents in the (hopefully) second edition of this fine volume. All in all, the present volume can be highly recommended for the student, for teachers and for the scientist. For little money - in particular the paperback edition is quite cheap - they all will receive a key to the diversity and complexity of the animal kingdom.

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