

Buchbesprechungen

23. Nielsen, C.: Animal Evolution. Interrelationships of the Living Phyla. - Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1995. IX + 467 pp. ISBN 0-19-854868-0 (hbk), ISBN 0-19-854867-2 (pbk).

In 1979 Claus Nielsen published a forerunner of his "Trochaea-Theory" (Fortschr. zool. Syst. Evolutionsforsch. 1: 178-184), which was formally proposed in 1985 (Biol. J. Linn. Soc. 25: 243-299) and was extended and specified in 1987 (Acta Zool. Stockh. 68: 205-262). The present volume outlines this theory in detail and also adds new ideas on animal evolution. The book is divided into 56 chapters comprising the choanoflagellates (the probable sister group of Metazoa), the proposed major clades and all metazoan phyla - whatever a phylum should be: Echiura is considered as an order (?), whereas Vertebrata is regarded as a phylum proper. The arrangement of chapters follows the author's phylogenetic proposal, which differs significantly from the traditional arrangement found in current textbooks. Each chapter contains a short description of the clade or phylum, discusses controversial points of view, and also provides a specific reference list. A detailed glossary finishes the volume.

Several phylogenetic trees are provided, which are usually presented in the classic Hennigian style with the proposal synapomorphies at the respective nodes of the tree. A remarkable exception is the "tree" of annelids in the broadest sense, where Gnathostomulida, Pogonophora (Frenulata & Vestimentifera), Lobatocerebridae, Myzostomida, Echiura (all united in a paraphyletic taxon 'Polychaeta'!), and Clitellata raise independently out of a pre-annelidan "dust" - in my view an entirely unnecessary and misleading concept. Computer aided methods have not been provided and also an overall character-matrix is not presented. The results of molecular sequencing are only briefly mentioned, but no attempt has been made to compare the molecular results in detail with the phenotypic ones.

Despite these shortcomings and regardless whether or not one (at least partly) shares Nielsen's point of view on animal evolution, this book is a must for everybody who is interested in the subject. A lot of interesting information is provided, and fine tables or drawings compare certain features of high phylogenetic significance. In particular the low price of the paperback edition should encourage all interested people to buy this book. G. Haszprunar

24. Sierra, A. G.: Mollusca - Cephalopoda. Fauna Iberica Vol. 1 (Ramos, M. A. ed.). - Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, 1992. 327 pp., 19 colour photos. ISBN 84-00-07267-7.

As described in the preface, this volume is the first modern synthesis about cephalopod molluscs in the Iberian Peninsula and Balearic Islands. Nearly 100 species of 33 families are treated in a very accurate and professional way: Identification keys, careful and detailed descriptions and very fine drawings of each species as well as information about geographical distributions and biology are provided. An appendix with 19 colour photos show these wonderful creatures alive. The author did a very fine piece of work. Besides the Iberian Peninsula the volume will be useful and applicable for the whole western Mediterranean and the temperate east Atlantic. The text is in Spanish (therefore I cannot comment on typing-errors), but with some knowledge on the animals, reminding of school Latin and a small dictionary application takes place without problems. The systematic part has been reviewed very carefully, and also a complete synonymy list is provided as an appendix. The drawings are nice and clear, showing the whole animal, details of the hectocotylus, and anatomical features in the case of the Sepioidae, which are otherwise difficult to determine. Needless to state that also the reference list is of high quality. Summing up, although in Spanish, the cephalopod volume of the Fauna Iberica can be recommended to everybody who is interested in cephalopod systematics, biology or biogeography. It is to hope that also further volumes of the series will continue the present high standard. G. Haszprunar

25. Hartwich G.: Die Tierwelt Deutschlands, 68. Teil: II. Strongylida: Strongyloidea und Ancylostomata. - Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, Jena, 1994. 157 S.

Der hier vorliegende, zweite Teil über parasitische Nematoden der Wirbeltiere setzt den ersten Teil (Tierwelt Deutschlands, 62. Teil, 1975) nach fast 20-jähriger Lücke fort. Hauptziel ist es, Bestimmungsschlüssel und Diagnosen dieser auch für die Veterinärmedizin wichtigen Gruppen darzulegen, während biologische oder phylogenetische Aspekte untergeordnete Bedeutungen haben. Es ist das Verdienst des Autors, die teilweise sehr alte und häufig sehr schlecht zugängliche und fremdsprachige Literatur zusammengefasst und in einer übersichtlichen Form dargeboten zu haben. Der Aufbau folgt der derzeitigen Systematik, die Artbeschreibungen und Bestimmungsschlüssel sind detailliert, die Zeichnungen meist klar und instruktiv. Leider wurde darauf verzichtet, bestimmte Merkmale durch rasterelektronenmikroskopische Aufnahmen noch "wirklichkeitsnäher" darzustellen.

Eindeutig negativ zu beurteilen ist der unverhältnismäßig hohe Preis des Bandes, der weder in der Hülle (brotschert), Seitenzahl (157) noch Ausstattung (ausschließlich Strichzeichnungen) seinen Widerhall findet. Damit wird die Verbreitung dieses Bandes wohl auf Bibliotheken, welche die gesamte Reihe abonniert haben, und direkt betroffene Fachleute beschränkt bleiben. G. Haszprunar

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