

Buchbesprechungen

3. Gosliner, T. M., D. W. Behrens & G. C. Williams: Coral Reef Animals of the Indo-Pacific. Animal Life from Africa to Hawaii Exclusive of the Vertebrates. – Sea Challengers, Monterey/CA, 1996. vi + 314 pp. ISBN 0-930118-21-9.

The first 15 pages of this handy volume are covered by some general paragraphs on determination, classification and naming of animals as well as on coral reef ecology. The main part of the book is composed of indeed beautiful color photos of marine invertebrates of all but the microscopic phyla together with information on their natural history and distribution. It is significant for our still extremely poor knowledge of even the marine macrofauna that a large portion of all (over 1.100) species presented could not be given a name. All photos are of excellent quality and make the reading of the book a true pleasure for the eyes, and even the expert is fascinated by the colorful beauty of sponges, corals, ctenophores, polyclad flatworms, nemertineans, molluscs, pycnogonids, crustaceans, echinoderms, and ascidians. A fine glossary, an informative reference list, and the index are found at the end of this volume.

According to the backside cover this volume has been produced “for the diver, for the aquarist, for the biologist”. Indeed, I recommend the book exactly for these groups of readers. Without any hesitation, the low price for more than 300 pages of wonders is well-invested.

G. Haszprunar

4. Reid, D. G.: Systematics and Evolution of *Littorina*. – Ray Society, London, 1996. x + 463pp. ISBN 0-903874-26-1 hbk.

The genus *Littorina* is one of the most studied in world's malacology. These “periwinkles” are usually found everywhere on rocky shores of Europe, North America, Russia and Japan. Nevertheless, the systematics of the known 19 species is still debateable and has caused considerable controversy.

David Reid, one of today's foremost malacologists and leading specialist of the family Littorinidae, presents his second monumental work. Based on original anatomical and genetic studies he describes in detail and superbly illustrates shells, radulae and anatomies of all living species of *Littorina*. He also presents a cladistic analysis of morphological characters, further includes the fossil record and data on allozyme frequencies and DNA sequences, and finally presents an overall approach of the phylogeny at the species level. Based on this analysis mechanisms of biogeography, speciation and adaptive radiation in *Littorina* are explained. The extensive bibliography comprises more than 1.500(!) references.

Needless to say that this work will become a landmark in *Littorina* research. Moreover, it gives a wonderful example for how today's systematic malacology should be, and that monographs are far from being outdated. I only can congratulate the author and strongly recommend the volume to everybody who wants to study systematic malacology – here you have the highest standard represented. I also thank the Ray Society, that offers this excellent but highly specialized book to an even reasonable price.

G. Haszprunar

5. Hausmann, K. & N. Hülsmann: Protozoology, with contribution by Hans Machemer, Maria Mulisch, and Günther Steinbrück. – Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart-New York, 1996. 338 pp. ISBN 3-13-110301-9.

This book is an up-dated English translation of Hausmann's paperback “Protozoologie” of 1985, which is thus now available for the whole English-speaking world. The textbook is divided into three main parts. Part I (Introduction and Overview: pp. 1-31) concerns the history of protozoology and the principle cellular organization of protists. The latter term and also “Protozoa” are purely descriptive, because of their clear paraphyletic nature. Part II (Evolution and Taxonomy: pp. 33-148) provides a systematic survey throughout the eukaryotic unicellular taxa. Given the dramatic and continuous changes in our knowledge of protist phylogeny during the last decade. The authors restrict themselves to provide descriptions of the main taxa rather than to comment at length on interrelationships, although hypotheses on the latter subject are also given briefly. Part III (Selected Topics of General Protozoology: pp. 149-300) reports on comparative morphology and physiology of protists, including molecular biology, behaviour and ecology. The book is provided with an extensive glossary (pp. 301-311), a well-organized bibliography (pp. 313-322), and an index (pp. 323-338) which finalizes the volume.

The text of the whole book is very well written and provides an excellent survey on the subject. In particular I like the very instructive figures and photos (light and electron microscopy), which are of highest quality throughout the volume. The only poor matter about this book is its high price which probably will prevent most students from buying it. A low-price paperback edition of this excellent textbook on protozoology is urgently wanted.

G. Haszprunar

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6. Nudds, J. R. & C. W. Pettitt (eds.): *The Value and Valuation of Natural Science Collections*. – Geological Society Publishing House, Bath/U.K., 1997. vii + 276 pp. ISBN 1-897799-76-4 hbk.

This volume represents the proceedings of an international conference with the same title held in Manchester 1995 and includes no less than 47 articles on the subject. The contributions are organized in three main parts and deal with scientific, cultural and financial value of collections. All kinds of natural history collections are concerned: zoology (excluding zoos), botany (including botanical gardens and semen banks), microbiology, paleontology, geology and mineralogy.

As to be expected, the range of opinions and points of view of all aspects mentioned differ significantly between authors depending not only on their personality but also on the local circumstances of his/her institution. Necessarily the scientific-cultural-financial value of each collection has to be evaluated in its distinct socio-economic environment. For instance, it is interesting to see that the Anglo-American world is much more ready to accept a cultural value of a natural history collection than mid-European countries such as Germany. Concerning the latter statement, I feel quite unhappy – and it might be significant – that not a single contribution of the whole volume concerns any German collection or is from a German author. Beside museums of the U.K., one finds institutions of Belgium, Czechia, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, The Netherlands, furthermore Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, U.S.A., and even Zimbabwe are represented.

In particular, the article by F. D. P. Cotterill from the last mentioned state, "The second Alexandrian tragedy, and the fundamental relationship between biological collections and scientific collections", includes a hall-mark and should become available to Governments and science foundations all over the world. The same is true for the brilliant but unfortunately very hidden (pp. 211-214) "International Accord on the Value of Natural Science Collections" which otherwise would not have even found its way to the Director of the Zoologische Staatssammlung in Munich (the author), and obviously our ministries are entirely unaware of it.

This is a book by specialists for specialists and certainly not for the broad public. Nevertheless, I strongly recommend it to all who are interested in or responsible for natural history collections – it is more than worthwhile to read, to think and to discuss about its contributions.

G. Haszprunar

7. Mauersberger, G.: *Urania-Tierreich. Vögel*. – Urania Verlag, Leipzig (1995). 550 S., über 250 Farbfotos. ISBN 3-332-00500-6.

Ich kann mich noch gut an meine Studienzeit erinnern, in der ich Bücher dieser Art verschlang, um endlich eine Gesamtschau über die Klasse Vögel zu gewinnen. Nun ist das bekannte "Urania Tierreich – Die große farbige Enzyklopädie" noch einmal neu aufgelegt worden. Anordnung nach systematischen Gesichtspunkten und Text blieben im wesentlichen gleich. Unter dem geschrumpften Format (jetzt 15.2 × 22 cm, früher 18.7 × 27.5 cm) gab man die mehrseitigen zusätzlichen Farbtafeln auf. Dafür erhalten die einzelnen Familien insgesamt 1-3 neu ausgewählte, qualitativ gute Farbfotos typischer Vertreter, doch bleiben einige, besonders die amerikanischen Vorsingvögel (Bronchienschreier), ganz ohne Farabbildungen. Der Text ist erzählend, auf die Dauer ermüdend: nach den Familiencharakteristika werden wenige Arten exemplarisch behandelt, wobei viel Platz für Gefiederbeschreibungen der nicht abgebildeten Arten verbraucht wird. Besser hätte man stattdessen gleich die Farbfotos dieser Arten dazugestellt. Über (Brut-)Biologie und Besonderheiten der ca. 1500 Arten kann man nur aus dem Text erfahren. Wer eine einbändige knappe Enzyklopädie der Vögel wünscht, mag hiermit seinen Bücher-schrank aufstocken. Für den modernen Ornithologen wird dieses etwas altbackene Werk kaum mehr als Nachschlagequelle dienlich sein.

T. Mischler

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