

Buchbesprechungen

29. Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and Western Santa Barbara Channel. Vol. 8: Mollusca, Part 1 (1998/2000), Vol. 9: Mollusca, Part 2 (1996). – Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, CA. ISBN 0-936494-21-2 (14 Volume Set). vii + 250 pp. and vii + 228 pp.

The Santa Maria Basin and Western Santa Barbara Channel is a remarkable biogeographic region of the Eastern Pacific with a long tradition in faunistics particularly concerning malacology. The two volumes provide a very valuable compilation of the molluscan fauna of this important area elaborated by specialists of the respective taxa. The chapter on the two aplousobranchian classes also includes the formal description of no less than five (six) species new to science; unfortunately these are solely based on hard parts and external morphology, thus the systematic position of the two solenogastres species remains somewhat tentative. Also two new bivalve and seven new gastropod species are formally described. Clear identification keys are provided and accurate descriptions and (mostly black & white) figures of nearly all species included are presented. Several “*Genus sp.*” in all molluscan classes demonstrate that more work is necessary for a complete inventory of the Santa Barbara species, a hopefully stimulating tool for professional scientists or skilled amateurs.

Strength of the two volumes lies in the detailed data on synonyms, the material examined by the authors, and the location of types of the respective species, reflecting the immense value of accurate museum collections. I found the extensive reference list of each chapter very complete and accurate as is the index of each part. The extensive glossary will certainly help beginners and students. Figures and printing are of medium quality, but this is acceptable, since it is reflected by a low price, which makes the two volumes available for a broad readership. No doubt that the “Atlas” will prove its value in the future of biodiversity research in the Santa Maria Basin and Western Santa Barbara Channel and may serve as a core of further Eastern Pacific taxonomic initiatives.

G. Haszprunar

30. Harper, E. M., J. D. Taylor & J. A. Crame (Eds.): Evolutionary Biology of the Bivalvia. – Geological Society Special Publication 177, 2000. – ISBN 1-86239-076-2 (hbk), ISSN 0305-8719. Alden Press, Oxford, vii + 494 pp.

This volume includes the proceedings of *The Biology and Evolution of the Bivalvia* meeting held in Cambridge in September 1999. Accordingly, my first congratulation to the editors and authors because they have succeeded to produce this multiauthor book within a year. Three main topics are concerned: (1) Molecular phylogeny of the Bivalvia and its subgroups. Two teams once more demonstrate that available sequence data lead to reasonable results within the major taxa but largely fail to clear up the interrelationships of the major groups or monophyly or the sister-group of the Bivalvia as a whole. (2) Several articles concern various aspects of the extensive bivalve fossil record, and phylogenetic as well as functional considerations are presented. (3) Also morphological data based on electron microscopy or functional anatomy still contribute significantly to our understanding of bivalve phylogeny and evolution aside from eco-functional aspects – if well elaborated and analysed. I particularly appreciate the obvious interaction of all three fields mentioned in the various discussion parts; this makes the present volume a very well-done and important source of information on the current state of the art of phylogeny and evolutionary history of the Bivalvia. Also price and content have a reasonable relation; thus, if you are interested in bivalves – go and buy this book.

G. Haszprunar

31. Magerl, C. & D. Rabe (Hrsg.): Die Isar. Wildfluss in der Kulturlandschaft. – Verlag Kiebitz Buch, Vilsbiburg, 1999, Großformat, geb., 192 S., viele Farb- und sw. Fotos. ISBN 3-9804048-5-4.

Der Fluss vor unserer Haustür: gezähmt oder wild, Erholungslandschaft oder Kloake? Eine Vielzahl von Autoren beleuchtet die Isar von allen Seiten: Flößler, Energiewirtschaft, Landschaftsplanung und Renaturierung, Fische, Botanik, Auwälder, die geschützten Abschnitte, die wichtigsten Städte, das Erholungspotential und nicht zuletzt die Vogelwelt, alles in 43 Kleinkapiteln dargestellt und von unserem AIB-Redakteur mit herausgebracht. Das Buch besticht weniger durch den Text, der aber genügend und korrekte Sachinformation liefert, als durch die schönen Farbfotos, die Heimatliebe erwecken, wobei oft historische Vergleiche, garniert mit seltenen Schwarzweiß-Dokumenten, herbeigezogen werden.

Über die Vögel der Isarstauseen lassen sich M. Schötz und für Ismaning U. & P. Köhler aus, die auch die Problematik des zu sehr gereinigten Isarwassers für das Fortbestehen des Speichersees als Ramsargebiet erläutern.

Der Band wurde nach dem Pfingsthochwasser 1999 geschrieben, und es scheint, als hätten die Behörden dazugelernt, denn Baumaßnahmen zur Rück(?)führung in einen naturnahen Zustand sind allenthalben unterwegs. Bleibt zu hoffen, dass davon unsere Raritäten wie auch die Artenvielfalt profitieren können. Als Geschenkband und Diskussionsgrundlage gut geeignet.

T. Mischler

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