

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

GRZIMEK, B. (Hrsg.): **Grzimeks Enzyklopädie Säugetiere – Band 1**. München: Kindler Verlag 1988. 648 Seiten, zahlreiche Abb., Lexikon-Großformat. Leinenausgabe: DM 148,-, ISBN 3-463-42001-5; Luxusausgabe (Halbleder): DM 198,-, ISBN 3-463-42001-5

Band 1 dieser Enzyklopädie erschien aus redaktionellen Gründen nach den Bänden 2 und 4, über die bereits Besprechungen in dieser Zeitschrift veröffentlicht wurden (Bd. 2 in 53/6, Bd 4 in 53/4).

Dieser erste Band enthält nach einem einleitenden Abschnitt zur Kenntnis der gesamten Klasse (mit Kapiteln u. a. über die Stammesgeschichte, den Körperbau und die Körperfunktionen, über ökologische Zusammenhänge, das Verhalten und Fragen des Artenschutzes) im systematischen Teil (etwa Zweidrittel des Gesamtumfanges) Beiträge über Monotremata, Marsupialia, Insectivora, Macroscelidea, Chiroptera und Dermoptera. In der schon gewohnten Weise werden jeder Ordnung zwei einleitende Seiten mit „Basisinformationen“ vorangestellt, die eine rasche Information u. a. über das System, auffällige Merkmale und Grundzüge der Biologie ermöglichen. Die Textteile bringen nach einer Einleitung jeweils Informationen zur Stammesgeschichte und im wesentlichen dann die Darstellung der rezenten Vertreter der jeweiligen Gruppe. Je nach dem Umfang der behandelten Gruppe verfahren die Autoren bei der Anordnung des Stoffes unterschiedlich; zumeist erfolgt eine Gliederung nach systematischen Gesichtspunkten, bei den Chiropteren bot sich eine solche nach biologischen an. Übersichtliche Tabellen – zumeist auf dem Familienniveau – bringen zu einzelnen, repräsentativen Arten Angaben über körperliche Merkmale und zur Biologie (Fortpflanzung, Lebensablauf, Nahrung, Lebensweise etc.). Eine große Anzahl von Photographien ausgezeichneter Qualität und bis zur Größe einer Doppelseite sowie zahlreiche Zeichnungen, diese besonders in dem einleitenden Abschnitt, erleichtern das Verständnis der Textinhalte; viele der Photos vermitteln darüber hinaus ganz einfach auch, wie faszinierend die dargestellten Tiere sind.

Die Arbeit des Abfassens der 41 Kapitel dieses Bandes haben sich 20 Autoren geteilt, die als ausgewiesene Kenner für ihr Fach bzw. ihre Gruppe den Stoff in vergleichbar komprimierter aber immer gut verständlicher Form und vor allem auf dem aktuellen Wissensstand dargestellt haben. Eine besondere Bedeutung kommt naturgemäß dem einleitenden Abschnitt dieses Bandes zu. Wenn man auch hinsichtlich der Auswahl einiger Details dieses Stoffes andersartig gewichten könnte, und der Fachmann diese oder jene Information hinterfragen möchte, so vermittelt dieser Teil doch in abgerundeter Form die wichtigen Grundlagen für das Verständnis der ganzen Klasse; Informationsvielfalt und gute Lesbarkeit sind hier sicher nicht immer leicht miteinander zu vereinbaren gewesen. In dem systematischen Teil dieses Bandes beanspruchen naturgemäß Marsupialia, Insectivoren und Chiropteren die größte Aufmerksamkeit. Eine gewisse Uneinheitlichkeit in der Präsentation des Stoffes zeigt sich darin, daß die Beuteltiere – im wesentlichen wohl durch die Zahl der Autoren bedingt, die z.T. sogar innerhalb der einzelnen Familien wechseln – eine vergleichsweise breite Darstellung erfahren (mit fast dem doppelten Umfang der jeweils beiden anderen gewichtigen Gruppen). Hierbei werden die einzelnen Familien, nicht so sehr unter dem Aspekt des Inhaltlichen als vielmehr der formalen Gestaltung, sehr viel stärker hervorgehoben als in den übrigen Gruppen. Dies mag mit der Materie nicht so vertraute Leser verwirren. Trotz dieser kritischen Anmerkungen gelingt auch diesem Teil des ersten Bandes in eindrucksvoller Weise die Vermittlung eines vertieften Wissens über die Formenmannigfaltigkeit der behandelten Ordnungen und über die Vielfalt der Anpassungen ihrer Mitglieder.

Ohne Zweifel können auch Fachleute diesen Band mit Gewinn lesen oder als Nachschlagewerk benutzen. Aber seine Bedeutung und die der Serie reicht darüber hinaus. In Zeiten zunehmender Naturentfremdung ist es hoch zu schätzen, daß sich Autoren und Verlag zusammengefunden und in vermutlich nicht wiederholbarer Form ein Werk geschaffen haben, das mit seinen kompetenten Texten und den hervorragenden, aufwendigen Illustrationen sicher auch ein breiteres Publikum ansprechen wird.

H. SCHLIEMANN, Hamburg

ZUPANC, G. K. H. (Hrsg.): **Praktische Verhaltensbiologie**. Parey's Studentexte 61. Berlin, Hamburg: Parey 1988. 274 S., 109 Abb., 17 Tab., DM 39,80. ISBN 3-489-62936-1

This book comprises a series of chapters written by experienced scientists and teachers on their particular behavioural speciality and animal species. As such, each section represents years of accumulated experience on the behaviour of the species concerned and the species' application in student practicals. The authors have selected out of the entire behavioural repertoire of their animals those aspects of behaviour that can be reliably replicated in the laboratory. This reliability marks the success or failure of any behaviour practical.

The book presents a wide variety of laboratory experiments that can either be used as demonstrations or as practical exercises for students ranging from school to University level. The experiments

suggested vary from simple constructs requiring little apparatus and knowledge of theoretical issues in ethology to more extensive (and expensive) ones which presuppose a theoretical etho-physiological or ethological background and the presence of specialised laboratory equipment. The animals suggested for use to illustrate different aspects of behavioural theory range from protozoa on the one hand, through insects and fish to birds and mammals on the other. An important inclusion is the chapter on optimal holding conditions for experimental animals, since physical and mental well-being has a profound influence on behavioural performance. Apart from general advice on holding conditions, each chapter contains a section giving more detailed information on the species concerned which will be of great value to instructors unfamiliar with them.

The book contains a subtle blending of theory and practice. Each experimental section includes suggested topics for seminars and a list of pertinent literature, as well as suggested themes for future research. This makes it especially valuable at the University level where specific topics can be discussed in detail.

Although the book is designed for use in German-speaking countries, due to its excellent treatment of the subject, its application could be far more widespread. One useful addition from this point of view would be the suggestion of alternative species for use in different countries. This may not be a problem with commercially available animals but becomes one when species endemic to the European continent are concerned. In general, the book can be considered, in the world literature, as being one of the most advanced and complete presentations of its kind and should find a wide application at both School and University level.

O. ANNE E. RASA, Pretoria

ALTMANN, D.: **Harnen und Koten bei Säugetieren**. Neue Brehm-Bücherei 404. Wittenberg-Lutherstadt: Ziemsen 1988. 162 S., 33 Abb., 7 Tab. DM 20,-. ISBN 3-7403-0162-7

This handbook provides a comprehensive coverage of the present knowledge on micturation and defaecation in mammals. The subject is approached from a descriptive standpoint and body postures during elimination illustrated for several species. The behaviour pre- and post-elimination is also described in detail. Much of the data originates from studies in zoos, which could have a practical application for the improved holding of captive animals. The use of faeces and urine in various social contexts is discussed succinctly and a large section of the book consists of tables listing the presence or absence of a variety of behaviour patterns associated with elimination in a wide variety of mammals. The author concludes the survey with a species list incorporating the known information on eliminative behaviour for each of the species mentioned.

This is a useful handbook for anyone requiring information on mammalian eliminative behaviour and the importance of elimination products in the species social life. It allows easy comparisons between species and the literature is fairly comprehensive. My one criticism is the paucity of the English literature included, since this would have increased the number of species which could have been mentioned in the species lists, thus enhancing this study especially from the comparative point of view. In general, this handbook will be of value as a reference work to a wide audience ranging from behavioural scientists on the one hand to zoo-keepers and anyone who deals with captive mammals on the other.

O. ANNE E. RASA, Pretoria

WIJNSTEKERS, W.: **The evolution of CITES**. A reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Lausanne: Secretariat of CITES 1988. 270 pp. P.O. Box 78, CH-1000 Lausanne. Swiss Francs 30,-

If one has to write honestly about the history of international nature conservation, it will be a story of small successes and great disappointments. The explosive growth of the human population, the rapid loss of biotopes, the incorrect exploitation of natural resources, plain greed and ignorance are the elements which caused and which are causing the disappearance of so many species of animals and plants. This is well illustrated by the actual situation concerning rhinos and elephants. The moment of their extinction is nearing rapidly.

One of the very few successes in international nature conservation is the Washington Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This convention, initiated by IUCN, took effect on 1-VII-1975 and at present most civilized nations are parties to it. Although the loss of habitats is the most important danger, the trade in wild animals and plants and their products is a very significant factor causing the disappearance of species. Just one example may suffice – in the years 1984 and 1985 alone, the countries of the European Community imported and exported 17,904 wild-caught non-human primates for laboratories, zoos, etc. This concerns only the EC, and to that number must be added the animals sent to the USA and Japan, not

to mention the smaller consumer countries like Sweden and Israel. Without the regulations of CITES this number would have been several times larger and many representatives of endangered species would have been among them.

It is strange, if not embarrassing, that so few university-trained biologists are interested in the Washington Convention, let alone are actively engaged in it. An important reason may be that there is so little up-to-date literature on the subject. The well-written popular introduction by Tim Inskipp and Sue Wells (1979) "International Trade in Wildlife" (Earthscan-London) is now somewhat dated. A new edition translated into several languages would be most useful. All the other publications are hard to find; government reports, articles in specialized journals, etc.

It is therefore a pleasure to announce that a highly technical book on the Washington Convention has been published recently. It is not easy to read; the history of the convention, the rules and regulations, the changes and amendments are subjects quite different from what biologists normally study. But if one is seriously interested in practical nature conservation, one has to take notice of this book. For persons preparing courses on nature conservation, for people working with conservation organisations, for civil servants dealing with international conventions and their national implementation, the book is a must.

Now the world is getting more accessible each day and more crowded, we cannot work exclusively on academic subjects, but we have to take care of international nature conservation too. If it only would be for our self-preservation.

P. J. H. VAN BREE, Amsterdam

TINKER, S. W.: **Whales of the world**. Honolulu: Bess Press 1988; 310 pp., numerous unnumbered illustr. Distributed by E. J. BRILL, Leiden, New York, København, Köln. US \$ 22,-. ISBN 90-04-08954-3

It is quite clear that cetaceans are now very popular. Numerous books on whales and dolphins have been published during the last decade. They range from simple booklets to coffee table books and serious publications. The books are written by cetologists with much personal experience, by clever compilers and by voluminous writers treating every subject they encounter. It is therefore very difficult to buy a book on Cetacea relying only on the title.

The book discussed here is a well written compilation with all the good and bad aspects of such a publication. It treats the origin and evolution of whales, the anatomy of living whales (taxonomy, synonymy, the species, their biology, distribution, etc) and it closes with a selected bibliography, an appendix on measurements and an index. The book is abundantly illustrated with drawings and photographs (many of which do not show to full advantage due to the paper on which they have been printed).

The publication is a good popular introduction to cetology. Especially handy for students and for teachers at secondary schools. The author is fond of long vernacular names, like the White-headed or Gray Grampus, the North Pacific Giant Four-toothed Whale and Soberby's North Sea Beaked Whale. It is evident from the treatment of the genera *Stenella* and *Orcaella* that the typescript was finished some years before the actual publication. Sometimes one comes across odd mistakes, like the occurrence of *Orcaella brevirostris* along the East African coast, but in general the number of mistakes is limited.

P. J. H. VAN BREE, Amsterdam

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