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books noted with interest

Gliding mammals of the world

Stephen Jackson & Peter Schouten
2012, 2nd edition, CSIRO Publishing, 215 pp.
AUS\$99.95 (Hardback)
ISBN: 9780643092600

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/>

Gliding mammals occur in many forests throughout the world, though the most spectacular and diverse forms are found in tropical Asia. Following a recent taxonomic overview by the lead author, this book collates all the available biogeographical and natural history information on 65 species across 6 families. Highly readable introductions to each group are followed by species summaries; distribution maps and outstanding colour paintings accompany all descriptions. A helpful appendix lists the species present in a number of sites across the globe. Clearly a labour of love, this is as engaging to read as it is valuable as a reference text.

Vegetation Databases for the 21st Century

Jürgen Dengler, Jens Oldeland, Florian Jansen, Milan Chytrý, Jörg Ewald, Manfred Finck, Falko Glöckler, Gabriela Lopez-Gonzalez, Robert K. Peet & J oop H.J. Schaminée (editors)

2012, University of Hamburg, 447 pp.
€20.00 (Paperback), Open-Access (online)
DOI: 10.7809/b-e.vol_04

<http://www.biodiversity-plants.de>

The fourth volume in the Biodiversity & Ecology series is one of those services to the academic community that deserves greater acclaim. The editors have produced a catalogue of vegetation databases around the world; 21 of these receive detailed treatment, while around 150 more are presented as single-page summaries with the key information. Whether you are looking for data from a particular site or region, or hoping to assemble a global collection from similar biomes, this will be an invaluable resource and an insight into just how much data is out there for those that care to look.

The Ants of Fiji

Eli M. Sarnat & Evan P. Economo
2012, University of California Press, 400 pp.
£44.95 (Paperback)
ISBN 9780520955219

<http://www.ucpress.edu>

The Fijian archipelago comprises 332 islands and 500 islets located approximately 2,600 km from Australia. The largest island is over 10,000 km², with a peak at 1,234 m, giving rise to a wealth of environments and habitats. This review of 187 known species in 43 genera, 70% of which are endemic, is the first new treatment of their myrmecofauna in almost a century. The detailed taxonomic keys are followed by plates illustrating each species, a map of the collection localities, and an intuitive figure showing their altitudinal range and the broad vegetation type. This will inform and enable many future studies.

Encyclopedia of Lakes and Reservoirs

Lars Bengtson, Reginald W. Herschy & Rhodes W. Fairbridge (editors)

2012, 2nd edition, Springer, 954 pp.
£315.50 (Hardback), £375.45 (e-Reference)
ISBN: 9781402056161 / 9781402044106

<http://www.springer.com>

This mammoth volume, containing around 200 entries, collates the work of 162 contributors from over 30 countries, spanning topics from acidification to the Xiolangdi reservoir via alternative stable states, carbon cycles, palaeolimnology and much more. The subject index alone stretches to 23 pages! While the dominant focus is on physical geography, it will be of great interest to biogeographers as contextual background, and there are plenty of sections dealing with biological theories, principles or records. This will be an essential reference text for the library. The price may deter casual readers, while peculiarly the electronic version is even more expensive.

Mediterranean Mountain Environments

Ioannis N. Vogiatzakis (editor)

2012, Wiley–Blackwell, 232 pp.

£75.00 (Hardback), £37.50 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9780470686249 / 9780470686256

<http://www.wiley.com>

The particular climate of the Mediterranean, combined with the peculiarities of montane systems, and a long history of human occupation and management, provide a unique set of habitats. This introductory text focusses on physical geography, with only a single short chapter on biogeography. Nevertheless the sections on their geological history, hydrology, cultural geography, land-use change and the potential effects of climate change will all provide useful context for anyone working in these regions, and each chapter is supported by copious citations from the primary literature. It will provide ideal reading for students, perhaps as the textbook for a field course.

Markus Eichhorn

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Editorial policy for book reviews

Frontiers of Biogeography will publish in-depth reviews of recently published books (typically less than one year old) on biogeography or of interest to biogeographers, alongside a 'Noted with Interest' section providing brief details of new publications. Authors, editors or third parties are invited to suggest books for review to the Book Review Editor, Dr Markus Eichhorn, School of Biology, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom; telephone ++44 (0)115 951 3214; e-mail markus.eichhorn@nottingham.ac.uk. We welcome offers to review books for *Frontiers of Biogeography*, but will not accept an offer to review a specific book. Anyone wishing to review books should send a brief *curriculum vitae*, description of competencies, and a statement of reviewing interests to the Book Review Editor. Reviews should be in an essay style, expressing an opinion about the value of the book, its focus and breadth, setting it in the context of recent developments within the field of study. Textbook reviews should consider their utility as resources for teaching and learning. Avoid describing the book chapter by chapter or listing typographical errors. The length should normally be 1000 words (1500 words for joint reviews of related texts) including a maximum 10 references. Authors may suggest a short heading for the review, followed by the title of the book(s), the authors/editors, publisher, publication date, price, hbk/pbk, pages, ISBN and website (where available). Figures or tables will not ordinarily be included. Authors of reviews must verify that they have not offered (and will not offer) a review of the same book to another journal, and must declare any potential conflict of interest that might interfere with their objectivity. This may form a basis for editorial decisions and such disclosures may be published. Book reviews will usually go through a light editorial review, though in some circumstances also will be considered by one or more referees.