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BOOK REVIEWS

Kryštufek, B.; Vohralík, V.: Mammals of Turkey and Cyprus. Introduction, Checklist, Insectivora. Science and Research Centre of the Republic of Slovenia Koper, Slovenia (2001). 140pp., numerous black and white illustrations, 16 colour plates. Softcover: US$ 31.00, €23.00, ISBN:961-6033-36-0

Kryštufek, B.; Vohralík, V.: Mammals of Turkey and Cyprus. Rodentia I: Sciuridae, Dipodidae, Gliridae, Arvicolinae. Science and Research Centre of the Republic of Slovenia, Koper, Slovenia (2005). 292pp., numerous black and white illustrations, 16 colour plates. Softcover: US$ 36.00, €27.00, ISBN:961-6033-60-3.

Two volumes of the series on "Mammals of Turkey and Cyprus" have appeared during recent years – and it is hoped that the following volumes will be published soon! The present volumes are authored by Boris Krystufek, who is head of the Institute for Biodiversity Studies of the University of Primorska in Koper, Slovenia, and by Vladimir Vohralik of the Zoology Department of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. The volumes are based on published data, voucher specimens in museums and on own material from the authors' collections.

The first volume gives a short introduction that informs about the general structure of the books, followed by a short account of the geography of Asia Minor and Cyprus, as well as by remarks on the history of mammal research in that area. An annotated checklist of the mammals of Turkey and Cyprus gives names and information on general geographical distribution of 17 Insectivora, 34 Chiroptera, 19 Carnivora, 9 Artiodactyla, 2 Lagomorpha and 60 Rodentia. A brief chapter on "Material and Methods" informs on the types of measurements, their presentation and documentation in different zoological collections and in this publication.

After this more general information the insectivores considered here are presented in a standardized and very clear form. A black and white drawing of the species, illustrations of craniological features, as well as teeth and a photograph of the habitat, followed by a map showing the geographical distribution of the considered species, illustrate the separate chapters. These are subdivided into sections on taxonomy, descriptions (including tables with measurements), data on intraspecific variation, as well as on distribution and habitat. Seven pages of references are given and impressive colour plates of habitats can be found at the concluding section of the first volume, followed by informative colour plates of the skins of the considered insectivores.

The second volume on rodents presents the principally identical organisation as the first one. In some cases the species is not shown in black and white drawings, but in excellent photographs. In this volume the clear and detailed colour plates depict the skins of considered rodent species. More than 20 pages listing literature references can be found in the second volume, as well as eight pages of index.

There is no doubt that these professionally produced and well-printed volumes present valuable information for ecological, biogeographical, faunistic and taxonomic studies. They present an important source of mammological information!

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King, C.M. (Ed.): The Handbook of New Zealand Mammals. 2nd ed. Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press (2005). XIX + 610pp., numerous tables and black and white illustrations and 16 colour plates, £45, ca. €67, Hardcover, ISBN-10: 0195584775

This comprehensive handbook combines chapters by 29 contributors on 47 native and introduced land-breeding mammal species in New Zealand (cetaceans are not covered) preceded by an introduction dealing with the history and the peculiarities of the New Zealand mammalian fauna. The latter is probably unique in that about three quarters of all species have been introduced to the islands while only a dozen or so bats and pinnipeds are really autochthonous. Interestingly, the reader learns, most of the introduced species were