

greatly in length, scope, and style, they are all well written and edited, and together they paint an extremely vivid picture of a rich field in vibrant health, with much yet to be done. An unusual feature of this collection is its strong historical perspective, established from the very beginning in a foreword by W D Hamilton (not the only theorist to be "entranced" by "these astonishing insects"), and in a previously unpublished lecture by Pardi. The last two chapters again widen the view, as Mary Jane West-Eberhard considers how the differentiation of paper-wasp behavior and physiology may provide an illuminating model for some of the largest questions at the interface between development and evolution, and Richard Burian (a philosopher of science) considers wasp biology and biologists as a model for the practice of science. I might add that this book is a model symposium volume. Alas, no graduate student will be able to afford it. This is a pity, because otherwise it would be perfect for a seminar course.

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ORIGIN AND EVOLUTIONARY RADIATION OF THE MOLLUSCA. *Based on a symposium held at the Natural History Museum, London, 14–16 September 1993.*

Edited by John D Taylor. Published for the Malacological Society of London by Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York. \$135.00. xiv + 392 p; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-19-854980-6. 1996.

This volume is a revealing account of progress to date in the study of molluscan phylogenetic relationships. It contains 31 contributions by 40 authors who attended the Centenary Symposium of the Malacological Society of London in September 1993. It is the most complete statement on the subject yet published and merits a place in the libraries of institutions and mollusc specialists. In one of the most ambitious (yet still preliminary) cladistic analyses yet attempted for any group of molluscs, Gastropod phylogeny—challenges for the 90s, by W F Ponder and D R Lindberg (Chapter 11), 22 ingroup taxa and three outgroups are analysed for 95 morphological characters.

In methodological contrast, several phylum- or higher-level analyses by such prominent malacologists as G Haszprunar, L v Salvini-Plawen, G Steiner, A Scheltema, and D L Ivanov propose drastically different scenarios. Those contributors document new and interesting character-state distributions, and yet heavily-handedly assert preconceived notions of ancestral prototypes. A more impartial approach would have used cladistic analysis, including multiple potential outgroups. Those who enjoy active controversies will find plenty of disagreement

among these authors, and this debate reflects the vibrancy of ongoing investigations.

Likewise, B Runnegar reviews parallel controversies among paleontologists that involve problematic fossils with debated affinities to Mollusca. Runnegar's own "scenario" cladogram is provocative because it includes the well-known Cambrian fossils *Wiwaxia* and *Halkieria*, along with the extant phylum Sipuncula, as members of the clade that includes extant molluscs. J Healy's review on molluscan sperm ultrastructure and an ultrastructural demonstration of the coelomic nature of molluscs by M P Morse and P D Reynolds are other highlights. Conspicuously absent are molecular sequence comparisons, except for one study on stylommatophoran gastropods based on partial 28S ribosomal RNA sequences by S Tillier and coauthors. More specialized contributions are limited to Aplacophora, Gastropoda, Scaphopoda, and Bivalvia. The editor is to be commended for assembling an attractive, well-edited volume with generally excellent figures. It is bound to be widely cited and will certainly stimulate further research on molluscan phylogeny.

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OSTRACODA (MYODOCOPINA) OF THE SE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENTAL SLOPE, PART 3. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, Number 573.*

By Louis S Kornicker and Gary C B Poore. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. Gratis upon request (paper). iv + 186 p; ill.; no index. No ISBN. 1996.

BIODIVERSIDAD, TAXONOMÍA Y BIOGEOGRAFÍA DE ARTRÓPODOS DE MÉXICO: HACIA UNA SÍNTESIS DE SU CONOCIMIENTO.

Edited by Jorge Llorente Bousquets, Alfonso N García Aldrete, and Enrique González Soriano. México: Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. \$40.00. xii + 660 p; ill.; index. ISBN: 968-36-4857-6. 1996.

Travelers to Mexico often hear the lament: "Poor Mexico! So far from God; so close to the United States." Mexico's alleged distance from God has certainly not harmed its biodiversity, which is among the world's highest. Its proximity to the United States has not harmed taxonomic understanding of its biota either, although Mexico has a long and proud history of indigenous work in a great many groups. The lead in bringing together a very scattered, polyglot literature on Mexican biodiversity was taken by the Instituto de Biología at UNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, which