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## COMPTES RENDUS

**BO BEOLENS, MICHAEL WATKINS, MICHAEL GRAYSON** (eds), 2009 - The Eponym Dictionary of Mammals. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., I – XIII + 574 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0-8018-9304-9 and ISBN-10: 0-8018-9304-6, price (hardcover), \$65.00.

Usually, dictionaries aim at some large categories of users, as regards their age, education, social categories. Humanity is more and more interested in enriching its knowledge in numerous fields. Never, a dictionary could include all terms, as comprehensive as it can be, especially those characteristic to different specialized fields.

In the field of the natural sciences there are a few dictionaries of wide circulation and the readers do not find easily the source for clearing better the sense of several terms. There are some dictionaries of biology (“*A Dictionary of Biology*”, edited by Abercombie, C.J. Hickman and M.L. Johnson/1973; “*Mic Dicționar de biologie*”, edited by Crăciun Teofil and Virginia Crăciun/1976; “*The Wonderworth Dictionary of Biology*”, edited by Peter M.B. Walker/1995); other of zoology („*A Dictionary of Zoology*”, edited by Michael Allaby/2003); of botany, of ecology etc.

There is not a dictionary of eponyms, yet, of explaining the assignment of some scientific or vernacular names to the mammal species. Such a lack is completed by the publishing of *The Eponym Dictionary of Mammals*, edited by the above-mentioned team, the first two from the well known „John Hopkins University” of Baltimore - Maryland - U.S.A., where a special monograph paper, *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic & Geographic Reference* (Third Edition/2005), was printed; the third author of the dictionary is carrying on his activity in London.

Not infrequently, we remarked confusions between the word etymology and eponyms. The first refer to the origin of a word, explaining the evolution of the etymon (etymologic sense – Greek *etymon* = truth), while eponyms also originated from a Greek word, (*epōnymos* or *epōnumos*) which includes the suffix *epi* = on + *onyma* or *onoma* = name.

In other words, *Columbus Day* is eponym of Christofor Columbus or we can say Christophor Columbus is eponym person of the holiday. In the same manner America is the eponym of Amerigo Vespucci; capital of Greece is the eponym of goddess, Athena, etc.

In the case of mammals, the common/vernacular and scientific name of species derived from the name of a person, of a place (oikonames), a foundation, etc. Therefore, we appreciate *The Eponym Dictionary of Mammals* as an original and difficult work explaining the name’s origins of more than 2000 species: 2290 in case of vernacular names and 2166 in case of scientific names, among a total of more than 5300 recognized recent mammal species. Such a work wouldn’t be possible without a previous experience of the first two authors, editing the eponym dictionary *Whose Bird?* and without a co-operation, supporting, working hardly, the work and scientific rigour of 37 scientists from prestigious research institutions on all continents. All content of the Dictionary is simple, most part (460 pages) indicating

where persons with a certain letter can be found; this part represents 80.13% of the entire book. In introduction (pages IX – XIII), some persons' notoriety is mentioned, those to whom some mammal species names were dedicated as well as the anonymity of others. Using this book the reader should be familiarized with the meaning of some abbreviations: in case of an alternative vernacular/English names for a species they are put in brackets, preceded by *Alt.* and in case of synonymies, the alternative scientific names are preceded by *Syn.*

The eponyms for mammals refer to legendary and to real persons since antiquity (e.g. priestess Io, goddess Iris, Hector), to classical scientists (e.g. Linné, Darwin, Cuvier) up to contemporary ones (e.g. Anita Kelley Pearson, Sydney Anderson, David Frederik Attenborough, Howard and Rhonda Hawk, Robert S. Hoffmann, Don Ellis Wilson, Lady Alison Jolly). But the eponym persons were not only scientists or teachers. Some of them were militaries (e.g. General Petr Kuzmich Kozlov, Colonel Henry Nason Dunn, Major Friedrich Robert von Beringe), physicians (e.g. Richard Harlan), explorers, expeditionaries and collectors (e.g. William Astor Chanler, Peter and Joseph Bernard, Audley Cecil Buller, A.W. Waters), diplomats (e.g. John Lane Harrington), travellers, traders, ship owners (e.g. Jean-Jacques Dussumier, Marie-Jules Dupré), archaeologists (e.g. Susan Bulmer), artists and adventurers (e.g. Johan Ludwig Gerhard Krefft), etc.

In the case of other mammal species, the eponyms of vernacular names refer to the place or to a country, county or village of collection, or to the habitat, and the scientific names are dedicated to a person: Eastern Amazon Climbing Mouse (*Rhipidomys emiliae*); Eastern Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*); Mindanao Tree-Shrew (*Urogale everetti*); Malagasy Mountain Mouse (*Monticolomys koopmani*); Malayan Tailless Leaf-nose Bat (*Coelops robinsoni*); steppe field mouse (*Apodemus witherbyi*); steppe polecat (*Mustela eversmanni*), or the eponym is a combination between the name of a place and of a person – Phillips' Congo-Shrew (*Congosorex phillipsorum*).

The number of the persons to whom names of mammal species were dedicated is very varied for the 26 letters of the alphabet. Thus, the letter mostly cited (49) is „S”, in the second place being the letter „B” with 46 citations, followed by „M” with 35 citations, and „H” with 31. The rest of 22 letters have less than 30 citations („P” with 28, „C” and „B” with 27 each), reaching „Y” with two citations, and „Q” and „X” with a single citation. Having a heterogeneous distribution of the persons' citations on letters, from the 460 pages, alphabetically ordered, the dictionary includes 9 pages with one citation, 67 with two, 171 with three, 146 with four citations, 56 with five citations and 5 pages with six citations. These differences are due to the data on the persons, wider or limited, according to the available biographical data and the number of the species which were dedicated to them.

The bibliography (probably selective) mentioned by the authors includes paper titles and treatises on mammals, some of them very recent, which deal with the techniques of the molecular biology (e.g. Baker and coll., 2003; Boubliand and coll., 2008; Salari and coll., 2006; Louis and coll., 2006 a). From other cited titles we deduced that there are descriptions of some new species or the validity of others, unknown before, it is pointed out, as in the case of the genus *Lepilemur*. Among the 87 cited titles, collections of some periodicals are included, with several volumes published along some decades: *Journal of Mammalogy* (since 1919 – 2009), *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* (1830 – 1965), *Zoologischer Anzeiger* (1878 – 2009). Besides the papers specialized in mammalogy, also some other papers on

other vertebrate groups were mentioned (*Biographical Key – names of Birds of the World – to Authors and Those Commemorated*) as well as *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Appendix 1 with 52 pages includes 2290 vernacular names of mammals. In our opinion, instead of vernacular names, it should be more appropriate to say English names as it is already mentioned in page IX. Vernacular or popular names should be given by local people. But, in spite of the common sense, observation and knowledge on biology of surrounding beings, some of species are not „baptised”, yet, and others are confused by these local people. On the other hand, in theriological literature most common names are bookish or translated from the scientific names or even many common names are translated from other languages.

Appendix 2, with the same number of pages, includes 2166 scientific names, representing 40.86% from the total number (approx. 5300) of recent mammal species.

Even if the alphabetic order of the two indexes allow the easy finding of the certain names in the text (vernacular and scientific), we consider that it would be better to mention also the pages where they could be found. The more so that some letters have almost 48 person's names on 1 – 6 pages.

The book was carefully prepared with a manuscript repeatedly read and with entries clearly written. Thus we didn't notice more than one mistake (if we can say so) in case of Kolombatavic instead of Kolombatovic (orig. Kolombatović), as it was mentioned on the bottom of the same page. Of course, in a future edition it will be included the omitted names of other persons: Quiroz family from Pernambuco – Brasil who protected the blond capuchin and facilitated to scientists/authors of the n.sp. *Cebus queirozi* Mendes Pontes and Malta, 2006 to look for it in a swampy area; João Moojen for *Oligorhizomys moojeni* Weksler and Bonvicino, 2005 etc.)

These minor observations don't diminish the high value of *The Eponym Dictionary of Mammals* – the book being an absolutely necessary presence in the biologists' libraries (researchers, teachers and students) as well as an important source of information for every one's general culture.

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**ALEXANDRU PETCULESCU, DUMITRU MURARIU** (eds), 2009 - The first ecological reconstruction of underground environment from Romania. Cioclovina Uscată Cave [Prima reconstrucție ecologică a unui mediu subteran din România – Peștera Cioclovina Uscată]. Edit. Universitară, București, 136 pp., 23 maps, 50 photos, tables, graphs.

14 scientists present a factual, but more than that, a symptomatic event for the years to come, i.e. the protection of the cave fauna is successfully implemented. In Sebeș Mountains, at 16 km far from the patriarchal little town Hațeg, there is Cioclovina Uscată cave, well-known after the discovering of a brain pan of one of the oldest modern man (*Homo sapiens*) from Europe, dated at 29,000 years old. A few people know that, besides this incontestable palaeoanthropologic value, the cave has also a major importance, that of a proper natural roost for some bat colonies

(Chiroptera), which, unfortunately were seriously disturbed along time, because of the industrial exploitation of guano.

This cave, which had a lot to offer to bats and man (and still has!), has an interesting history, as it results from the Chapter II, signed by D. Murariu, Al. Petculescu and C. Petrea. Because the cave accumulated one of the largest *ardealite* deposits (80.000 tons), as a result of the catabolism of some huge chiropteran colonies, and which it is a very good fertilizer, special exploitation works have been done: forest road, railway, an 8 km funicular, and especially a tunnel of 142 m, drilled under the natural entrance level. Between 1912–1918 and then between 1924–1941, guano was put in bags and transported by train. The tunnel became the most injurious element to the environment, which became changeable, resembling enough with the exterior one, leading to its destruction, both for the bat colonies and nurseries, and for the cave invertebrates, bound to the trophic source of guano.

As it is written in the pivot chapter of the book (both due to the page number and, especially, due to the rich documented information of the entire research and activity of ecological reconstruction), signed by V. Gheorghiu, D. Murariu, D. Borda, A. Farcaș and O. Chachula, the humidity loss and the cave vandalizing cave by the tourists and improvised speleologists, who picnicked in the Bivouac Hall, ceased in 2004 and 2005, when the tunnel was blocked by a concrete diaphragm wall and a metallic door, and the natural entrance was blocked by an iron railing, with transversal bars, through which the bats could pass easily.

Interdisciplinary studies were developed by projects financed by the Romanian Academy, by the international project “Cave Bear Project, Romania, 2004”, speleological association „Proteus” from Hunedoara and „Focul Viu” (“Living Fire”) from Bucharest and implemented by “Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology of Bucharest. The results of five year studies successfully materialized by the creation and implementation of the first project of an ecological reconstruction of an underground habitat for chiropterans from our country. From 2004, since the anthropic tunnel was blocked, to 2008 when the programme finished, the number of bat increased 100 times, from about 10 individuals reaching 800 individuals of the genera *Myotis*, *Rhinolophus* and *Miniopterus*.

The 8 chapters, edited in English, with substantial abstracts in Romanian, are interesting, even exciting, for the biologists, speleologists, anthropologists, nature protectors, or for those who have this noble hobby, the amateur speleologists.

The book includes tens of maps, photos, tables, sketches, generously presented in a A4 format, proper to a scientific book. The photo represents the installations, equipments and snapshots made during the specialist working and original images of chiropterans in their natural environment.

The article which presents the modern perspective of the brain pan of *Homo sapiens*, not hybridized with *H. neanderhtalienisis*, as those from the western Europe are, offer convincing information that here, in the Southern Carpathians, the species *Homo sapiens sapiens* strongly developed, and spread westwards.

The articles on the biometry and fossilization conditions of the thanatogenesis from Cioclovina Uscată cave, of the species *Ursus spelaeus*, basing on almost 4000 bones, on the rock magnetism, mineralogical structure and the reconstruction of the Palaeoclimatic profile, completed with the presentastion of the management plan of the “Grădiștea Muncelului – Cioclovina” Natural Park (plan which clearly presents what must not happen, for preserving the biotope mosaic where the entomofauna

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eaten by bats develops) show that, in fact, we are in front of an academic monograph paper, of a site, of a history and of a social phenomenon.

The book which we recommend to the researchers and readers with noble and elevated hobbies show the evolution of the protection idea in Romania, and we hope it will be auspicious by its scientific and factual example.

DR. CORNELIU PÂRVU