

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Lemur Redux: Something Old, Something New, and Reader Blue

Review of *Lemur Social Systems and their Ecological Basis*, edited by P.M. Kappeler, J.U. Ganzhorn, and Peter Jörg. New York, Plenum Press, 1993, viii + 274 pp., \$79.50, cloth.

This book contains 15 papers presented at a symposium on lemur behavioral ecology at the XIV Congress of the IPS in Strasbourg, France in 1992, plus two papers from work completed after the symposium. The editors state that it was their goal to update and review general knowledge of lemurs because they felt that lemur behavior and ecology has been given more attention in the past decade and that information on newly studied populations and newly discovered species should be made available. They succeeded in some of these goals.

The 17 papers consist of three review papers (predation by Goodman et al.; sexual dimorphism by Kappeler; infanticide by van Schaik and Kappeler), three captive studies (Macedonia; Pereira; White et al.) four semi-free ranging studies: two of provisioned ringtailed lemurs at Berenty (Jolly et al.; Rasamimanana and Rafidinarivo) and two of translocated aye-aye and black-and-white ruffed lemurs on Nosy Mangabe (Sterling; Morland); and seven field studies of wild lemurs (Colquhoun; Rigamonti; Sauther and Sussman; Sauther; Ganzhorn; Overdorff; Meyers and Wright).

In addition to the three review papers, five of the papers are on *Lemur catta* (Jolly et al.; Sauther and Sussman; Rasamimanana and Rafidinarivo; Sauther; Pereira), one on *Lemur catta* and *Varecia variegata variegata* (Macedonia), two on *Varecia variegata variegata* (White et al.; Morland), one on *Daubentonia madagascariensis* (Sterling), one on *Eulemur macaco macaco* (Colquhoun), one on *Varecia variegata rubra* (Rigamonti), one on *Lepilemur* (Ganzhorn), one on *Eulemur fulvus rufus* and *Eulemur rubriventer* (Overdorff), and one on *Propithecus diadema edwardsi* and *Propithecus tattersalli* (Meyers and Wright).

Study site locations, in addition to those already mentioned at Berenty (two) and Nosy Mangabe (two) were two at Beza Mahafaly (Sauther; Sauther and Sussman), one at Ranomafana (Overdorff), one at Ranomafana and Daraina (Meyers & Wright), one at Ambato Massif (Colquhoun), one at Masoala peninsula (Rigamonti), and one at the four different sites of Analamazaotra, Ampijoroa, Ankarana, and Morondava (Ganzhorn). Six of the papers were either done at the Duke University Primate Center (DUPC) or data from DUPC records were used (White et al.; Macedonia; Meyers and Wright; Pereira; Kappeler; van Schaik and Kappeler).

The book is almost free of spelling errors (only two were noted) and is pleasingly presented. Putting the references at the end of each paper is much preferred to placing them at the end of the book. The French summaries of each paper at the end of the book are a nice touch.

This is both a satisfying and frustrating book to read. It is satisfying in the sense that it has been 20 years since lemurs have been the organizing focus of an international conference, new information is presented on species for which there

is little or no field data, and lemurs are given their due in testing theories and hypotheses that are often limited to anthropoids. It is frustrating in that (1) there is little editor input or control in terms of the style or presentation of the material in each chapter. The editors provide a rationale for the order of presentation, but the reasoning ranges from no rationale for the first five papers to grouping the papers based on topic areas that include predation, the species *Lemur catta* (but two of the papers dealing with *Lemur catta* are not included in this section), closely related species, seasonal habitat, and lemur social evolution. (2) In a book touted to present information on newly studied populations or newly discovered species, six of the papers (35%) are on ringtailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*), the most studied and best known prosimian species. After reading the editors' rationale for the book, I expected more chapters on new species (only one newly discovered species, *P. tattersalli*, is included) or more on never before studied species in the manner of the chapters on aye-aye, *Eulemur macaco macaco*, and red ruffed lemurs. (3) "Lemurologists" reading this book will have seen a picture of these primates, but the other readers may wish that more photos were included. The only photos are the cover picture of a *Propithecus verreauxi* that is not discussed in the book's papers and two shots of ringtailed lemurs in Macedonia's paper.

Despite these gripes, I enjoyed reading about primate species that are not being studied because they are models for human behavior and evolution. This book should be required reading for all those primatologists who think that only those primates evolutionally close to humans are of interest. The prosimians, as presented in the papers in this book, are as complex and intriguing as any anthropoid. Even the well-known ringtailed lemur still has much to tell us about primate behavior and evolution. In fact, the differing opinion about *Lemur catta* home range use and whether or not they are territorial is among the most thought-provoking material in this book. I hope that it is not another 20 years before prosimians are again featured. Reading this book may leave you wanting more, but at least you will have benefitted from the effort.

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