Book Reviews

P.H. Napier

Catalogue of Primates in the British Museum and Elsewhere in the British Isles, Part II

Family Cercopithecidae, Subfamily Cercopithecinae

British Museum, London 1981 X + 203 pp.; E 25.00 ISBN 0-565-00815-3

The BM(NH) has wisely and with much foresight embarked on a project to publish a complete catalogue of its holdings of primate specimens, based in part on its use of a computerized accession system. This collection is one of the largest in the world and the listing gains further from the inclusion of fossil material in the BM(NH) anthropology section and of specimens in numerous other British institutions. Researchers in such diverse areas as cercopithecine paleontology, functional morphology and distribution/ecology will save much time by referring to this volume before planning work in Europe – some ecologists may find enough data on locality distribution to refrain from visiting the collection itself!

The bulk of the work is, of course, the catalogue itself, but there are a number of additional sections which can be reported as a separate unit. The catalogue listings are preceded by an introduction to the format and a short review of cercopithecoid evolution (by Peter Andrews). The volume concludes with several appendices containing measurements and other comparative data on cercopithecines, as well as an extensive bibliography and an index to the scientific and common names of cited taxa. Appendix I gives acronyms for the collections reported, while III discusses hair annulation in cercopithecines. Appendix II tabulates the mean, range and number of values (N) for head+body length, tail length, total length and weight, arranged by sex and species, for BM(NH) specimens. Appendix IV gives mean, range and N for skull length (prosthion-inion) in species of Cercopithecini, by sex, taken from the literature and original data. The grouping of values in intervals according to the means (80-90 mm, 90-100 mm, and so forth) results in separation of the male and female values for each species, but is presumably designed to aid in identification within this morphologically homogeneous tribe; I fear it may not be of much help, however, as the observed ranges within species are too great to allow discrimination by so simple a key character as skull length. Appendix V offers generically grouped data on a variety of features, including those of Appendix II, from the literature and original observations (many by John Napier, the compiler's spouse). Sexual dimorphism (female as % of male values) is calculated for head+body length and weight, and additional values are given for the intermembral, brachial and crural indexes on the long bones. Ranges for gestation period and diploid chromosome number are also included, as is the number of cusps on lower M3 (5 in Papionini, 4 in Cercopithecini, as mentioned elsewhere in the volume).

For each genus, a short discussion is provided of synonymy, taxonomic notes, morphology, range, ecology, social behavior, reproduction and species recognized. In turn,

Book Reviews

species' specimen lists are preceded by synonymy, type localities (of synonyms), taxonomic notes, range, key to subspecies when relevant and the data tabulated in Appendix II (and V). Individual specimens are listed by subspecies and country (or region) of origin, with the locality data as detailed as possible. Also given are collection date; sex, age and nature of specimen; catalogue number and additional notes (including citation in the literature and nomen on the associated labels).

The taxonomic scheme is generally based on modern consensus and revisions. Two tribes are recognized, Cercopithecini with four full genera and Papionini with five living and three additional fossil forms. Of the papionins, *Papio* is here used for the 'savannah baboons', of which five species are recognized (although many workers now accept only one), while *Mandrillus* is employed for the two species of West African forest baboons. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is still considering a request for a ruling on the correctness of this usage, as the earliest publication of the term *Papio* referred to a mandrill. Similarly, the recent provocative suggestions by Groves that *Cercocebus* should be divided into two genera and that only four of the Celebes macaques are truly distinct have been discussed but not accepted, pending discussion in the primary literature.

In addition to a large collection of fossil *Theropithecus* from Kenya, the BM(NH) has diverse holdings of original fossils and casts of extinct cercopithecines, all of which have been integrated into the main listings.

Like its 1976 predecessor on platyrrhines, this volume represents a major source of data for primatologists and other zoologists. Mrs. Napier deserves much praise and gratitude, not only for organizing the publication, but also for the immense amount of primary checking of specimens for correct identification which the quality of this work implies she must have undertaken. I eagerly look forward to Part III on colobines and to the eventual completion of the order and hope that other museums may follow the lead of this most useful series.

E. Delson, New York

G.A. Doyle, R.D. Martin

The Study of Prosimian Behaviour

Academic Press, New York 1979 696 pp.; US \$ 49.50 ISBN 0-12-222150-8

Renewed interest in the biology of prosimian primates has become widespread enough to justify publication of this anthology, which summarizes most of the research on prosimian behavior conducted in the last two decades. The first two chapters discuss prosimian classification and phylogeny. The next ten chapters deal with particular categories of behavior, focussing on reproduction, learning, diet and feeding, communication, spatial distribution and ranging behavior, and locomotion. The book concludes with a chapter on methods of field study for nocturnal lorises, and a report on the behavior of *Tarsius bakanus* in seminatural conditions.

Book Reviews

139

Several of the individual contributions merely summarize previous research in a particular area (for example, Van Horn and Eaton's chapter on reproductive physiology and behavior, or Walker's chapter on locomotion). Reviews of this sort provide useful reference guides to the literature on the subjects as well as encapsulating the relevant findings, and are highly valuable in that regard. They are eclipsed, however, by those chapters in which the authors go beyond the presentation of factual catalogues and offer thoughtful interpretations of the biological significance of the observations they report. This is most apparent in CM. Hladik's study of diet

and feeding behavior, which presents an exemplary synthesis of morphology, behavior, ecology, and methods of study and analysis both in the field and in captivity.

While the book excels in relating behavioral observations to their ecological setting, it is correspondingly weak in linking behavior with systematics. This failing is unfortunately present in the opening chapter on classification, written by J.-J. Petter and A. Petter-Rousseaux. These authors purport to '... contribute to research on the evolution of prosimians...' (p. 1) without radically modifying G.G. Simpson's [1945] classification of this group. The chapter fails on both counts. Their discussion of evolution is limited to a brief, frequently inaccurate, survey of taxonomic characters traditionally employed with various prosimian groups (e.g., a one-paragraph discussion of carotid circulation). These features are dismissed or devalued, and a new classification founded on such dubious characters as diploid chromosome number is presented. The only similarity between this new classification and that of Simpson's is the identical treatment of the Indriidae; tree shrews and tarsiers are obliterated, and at least seven of Simpson's taxa are elevated in rank.

In spite of this disappointing beginning, the benefits of this book far outweigh its drawbacks. Typographical errors are few in number, although frequent enough to be occasionally annoying. The black and white photographs accompanying most chapters provide excellent documentation for many of the observations discussed in the text. The book should prove to an invaluable reference work, both for students and for established scholars who have not been following recent developments in the study of prosimian behavior.

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