
Methods and Principles of Systematic Zoology. *Ernst Mayr, E. Gorton Linsley and Robert L. Usinger.* McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. 1953. ix+328 pp. \$6.50.

Publication of this long needed book fills a vacancy in the zoological literature. The basic principles of classification and identification of animals are thoroughly covered along with an extensive discussion concerning the criteria for establishing the species as a taxonomic category and the principle types of evidence that should be used in setting up each of the various classification categories. Details concerning the evaluation of the many characters available to the taxonomist for discrimination between species and subspecies are stressed in several chapters.

A chapter on quantitative methods of analysis brings out the importance of the use of statistical methods to the taxonomist who is concerned with differentiating species and populations by a more precise method. One of the important features of this excellent book is the chapter on presentation of findings and its sequel, the one on the preparation of taxonomic papers for publication. Many valuable hints and suggestions are offered by which even the experienced writer may be helped. Although the authors state repeatedly that they do not favor regimentation in the methods of procedures of taxonomy they do seem to favor an accepted form for taxonomic articles, an idea generally approved by zoologists.

The final section of the book contains clarifications and explanations of the many rules and opinions of the International Zoological Congresses and the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. A chapter is devoted to the principle of priority and its many problems. The rules concerning the designation of the various taxonomic categories from species to phyla are presented along with examples illustrating the correct methods of interpreting the regulations.

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