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Frontiers of Biogeography

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Peer reviewed



BOOK REVIEW

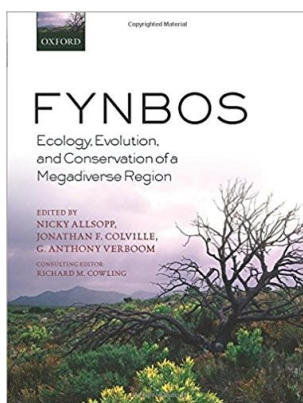
Noted with Interest

Fynbos: Ecology, Evolution and Conservation of a Megadiverse Region

Nicky Allsopp, Jonathan F. Colville and G. Anthony Verboom (editors), 2014, Oxford University Press, 414 pp. £36.99 (Paperback), ISBN 9780198777762

<https://global.oup.com/>

Many biogeographers first spot the Cape Floristic Region as an outlier of extraordinary plant diversity outside the tropics, defying most global trends. Despite the title, this book covers the wider region, including the succulent karoo, although fynbos takes centre stage. Across 16 chapters with 70 authors, the region's diversity is detailed, alongside its evolutionary history and interactions with humans both ancient and modern. The text focuses overwhelmingly on vegetation; even the chapter covering biotic interactions mostly concerns animals interacting with plants. Newly available in paperback, this forms an affordable compendium of our current state of knowledge regarding this extraordinary ecoregion.



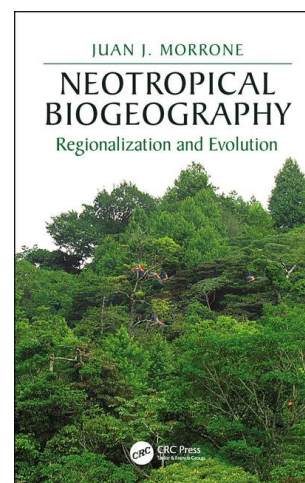
geography of India, this is it: a readable primer on the geological and evolutionary history of the sub-continent, peppered with allusions to famous landmarks, unusual wedding rituals and Bollywood films. In truth this is a general history of life on Earth, but written from an Indian perspective, making it a valuable corrective; the final chapter includes human colonisation of India and is cheekily entitled 'The Promised Land'. The text is interspersed with colour figures and maintains an exuberant pace throughout. Highly recommended.

Neotropical Biogeography: Regionalization and Evolution

Juan J. Morrone, 2017, CRC Press, 282 pp., £77 (Hardback), ISBN 9781138032484

<https://www.crcpress.com/>

The neotropics comprise a complex assortment of regional assemblages, here split into Antillean, Brazilian and Chacoan subregions. These are subdivided into a total of 53 subregions, each of which is mapped and described in terms of characteristic taxa. The evolutionary relationships among subregions are also analysed and interpreted. Valuable sections consider the Mexican and South American transition zones. The maps provide a useful reference and are backed up by a vast resource of literature citations. This is classic biogeography, and while not one to read from cover to cover, it belongs on the bookshelf of anyone working in this region.

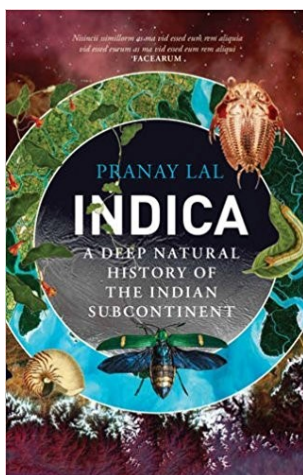


Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent

Pranay Lal, 2016, Penguin Allen Lane, 384 pp. £29.99 (Hardback), ISBN 9788184007572

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.co.uk>

In advance of the IBS meeting in Bangalore, if you need a book to enthrall you about the bio-

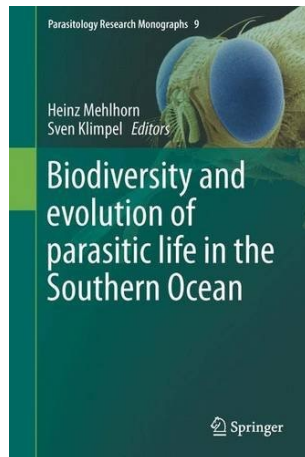


Biodiversity and Evolution of Parasitic Life in the Southern Ocean

Sven Klimpel, Thomas Kuhn and Heinz Mehlhorn (editors), 2017, Springer, 226 pp. £115.50 (Hardback), ISBN 9783319463421

<http://www.springer.com>

The unusual biogeography of Antarctica is displayed as much by parasites as in any other group of organisms, a reflection of their adaptation to the challenging environmental conditions, along with peculiar features of their evolutionary history. In this text parasites



of fish, seals, penguins and other birds are covered in a series of chapters, including details of surprising centres of endemism, particularly among those helminths and digeneans infecting fish. To have amassed such an impressive amount of scholarly information, on some of the most obscure of organisms, and in the most remote of all ecosystems, is an achievement of note.

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