

BOOK REVIEW / RECENSIONE

PRAGUE STUDIES IN MAMMALOGY. I. Horacek & V. Vohralik Eds.. Karolinum. Charles University Press, Praha, 1992, 245 pp. Available from Department of Zoology, Charles University, Věicna 7, 12844 Praha 2, Czech Republic. Price 25.-DM.

During the last forty years in Czechoslovakia mammalogical studies, as in other European countries, had noteworthy progress and scientific investigations were increased. Vladimír Hanak, Professor at the Department of Zoology of Charles University of Praha, with his research on mammals, particularly on the systematics and distribution of bat fauna, is one of the most important contributors to the growth of the Czech mammalogical school which has also reached international prestige.

Forty-six of his pupils, friends and colleagues from 12 countries, have joined in producing a collection of papers on occasion of his 60th birthday.

The work is edited by Ivan Horacek and Vladimír Vohralik, who also accomplished a brief biography and bibliography.

Twenty-one of the thirty papers published in this book reflect Hanak's own mainly scientific interests: bats. These papers discuss different subjects such as community structure, zoogeography, systematics, trophic ecology, behaviour, morphology, karyology. The remaining nine are concerned with other mammal groups: six on rodent behaviour, systematics, distribution, breeding biology; one on carnivore morphology; and two on ungulate breeding biology and morphology.

Even if the topics dealt with this collection are rather diversified I think this book is an appropriate gesture to celebrate Hanak's birthday as an awarding recognition of his scientific career. Moreover, the richness and originality of the data and the topical articles make this book very useful particularly to chiropterologists and more in general to all mammalogists.

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