Review: [Untitled]

Reviewed Work(s):

Exploration Hydrobiologique du Lac Tanganika (1946-47): Résultats Scientifiques. Vol. I: Le Milieu Géographique et Géophysique by André Capart, Le Milieu Biochimique by Jean Kufferath, Le Milieu Végétal by Ludo Van Meel, Les Invertébrés by Eugène Leloup, Les Vertébrés by Max Poll, Vol. II, fasc. 1: Relevé des Stations by Eugène Leloup, Vol. II, fasc. 2: Sondages et Carte Bathymétrique by André Capart, Vol. III, fasc. 1: Lamellibranches by Eugène Leloup, Vol. III, fasc. 2: Trematoda, Cestoda and Acanthocephala by Stephen Prudhoe, Coleoptera Carabidæ by Pierre Basilewsky, Bryozoaires by Adrianus W. Lacourt, Méduses by Eugène Leloup, Cyclopides (Crustacès copépodes) by Knut Lindberg, Vol. III, fasc. 3: Amphibiens et Reptiles by Gaston de Witte, Hemiptera Homoptera by Victor Lallemand and Henri Synave, Coleoptera Lamellicornia by André Janssens, Crustacés Décapodes, Brachyures by André Capart, Vol. III, fasc. 4: Gastéropodes by Eugène Leloup

Expédition Océanographique Belge dans les Eaux Côtières Africaines de l'Atlantique Sud (1948-49): Résultats Scientifiques. Vol. I: Annexe: Liste des Stations by André Capart, Vol. II, fasc. 1: Etude Physique et Chimique du Milieu Marin by Charles Van Goethem, Vol. III, fasc. 1: Cumacés by Louis Fage, Crustacés Décapodes, Brachyures by André Capart, Vol. III, fasc. 2: Crustacés Décapodes, Macrures by Lipke Bijdeley Holthuis, Vol. III, fasc. 3: Céphalopodes by William Adam, Vol. IV, fasc. 1: Poissons: Généralités, Sélaciens et Chimères by Max Poll

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Science, New Series, Vol. 118, No. 3076. (Dec. 11, 1953), p. 727.

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Book Reviews

Exploration Hydrobiologique du Lac Tanganika (1946–47): *Résultats Scientifiques.* Vol. I: *Le Milieu Géographique et Géophysique* by André Capart, *Le Milieu Biochimique* by Jean Kufferath, *Le Milieu Végétal* by Ludo Van Meel, *Les Invertébrés* by Eugène Leloup, *Les Vertébrés* by Max Poll, 168 pp., illus. + plates. Vol. II, fasc. 1: *Relevé des Stations* by Eugène Leloup, 119 pp., plates + maps. Vol. II, fasc. 2: *Sondages et Carte Bathymétrique* by André Capart, 16 pp., plates + maps. Vol. III, fasc. 1: *Lamellibranches* by Eugène Leloup, 153 pp., illus. + plates. Vol. III, fasc. 2: *Trematoda, Cestoda and Acanthocephala* by Stephen Prudhoe, *Coleoptera Carabidæ* by Pierre Basilewsky, *Bryozoaires* by Adrianus W. Lacourt, *Méduses* by Eugène Leloup, *Cyclopides (Crustacès copépodes)* by Knut Lindberg, 91 pp. tables + plates. Vol. III, fasc. 3: *Amphibiens et Reptiles* by Gaston de Witte, *Hemiptera Homoptera* by Victor Lallemand and Henri Synave, *Coleoptera Lamellicornia* by André Janssens, *Crustacés Décapodes, Brachyures* by André Capart, 67 pp., illus. Vol. III, fasc. 4: *Gastéropodes* by Eugène Leloup, 273 pp., illus. + plates. Brussels: Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, 1949–53.

Expédition Océanographique Belge dans les Eaux Côtières Africaines de l'Atlantique Sud (1948–49): *Résultats Scientifiques.* Vol. I: *Annexe: Liste des Stations* by André Capart, 65 pp., illus. Vol. II, fasc. 1: *Etude Physique et Chimique du Milieu Marin* by Charles Van Goethem, 152 pp., illus. Vol. III, fasc. 1: *Cumacés* by Louis Fage, *Crustacés Décapodes, Brachyures* by André Capart, 205 pp., illus. + plates. Vol. III, fasc. 2: *Crustacés Décapodes, Macrures* by Lipke Bijdeley Holthuis, 88 pp., illus. Vol. III, fasc. 3: *Céphalopodes* by William Adam, 142 pp. illus. + plates. Vol. IV, fasc. 1: *Poissons: Généralités, Sélaciens et Chimères* by Max Poll, 154 pp., illus. + plates. Brussels: Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, 1951–52.

It is good to know that in a few places in the world, in this day of inelegant offset and muddy mimeographing, the tradition of fine printing in science is still observed: that some people are still of the old-fashioned opinion that if an expedition is worth financing at all, its reports are worth publication in a suitable manner. Here are two series, both in folio format, on excellent paper with spacious margins, illustrated by excellently reproduced photographs and drawings.

Of the two expeditions, that to Lake Tanganyika is the more significant. When completed, this series will be a contribution to limnology which should make Americans blush with shame whenever they look at their neglected but much more accessible Great Lakes. One of the most interesting aspects of Lake Tanganyika is its gastropod fauna, and this is reported by Leloup in one of the most significant issues of the series, with tables of measurements and illustrations showing the range of variation of many of the species.

The results of the expedition to the coastal waters of west Africa (from the equator to Walvis Bay) will provide much valuable information on a particularly interesting and significant coastal region, and the faunal reports are presented in satisfactory detail. As this was primarily an expedition to study fish, it is perhaps unfair to ask for a more detailed physical and chemical report than the one before us, but a more intensive study of the Walvis Bay region in particular would have added greatly to the value of the report.

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The Biology of Paramecium. Ralph Wichterman. New York–Toronto: Blakiston, 1953. 527 pp. Illus. $9.00.

Tennyson, in his "Flower in the Crannied Wall," expressed the faith that a thorough understanding of one organism would go far toward a general understanding of life. This is the tacit working philosophy of many biologists. It has created a need for a new kind of treatise, summarizing knowledge and supplying full bibliography about a particular organism. Wichterman's book on Paramecium, belonging to this class, is indispensable for investigators working on Paramecium or similar organisms.

Studied for nearly 300 years and long enjoying the status of a laboratory favorite in many and varied fields of biology, Paramecium is the subject of a very large number of papers. Approximately 2000 references are cited in Wichterman's book, more than twice as many as in the 1931 book on the same subject by Kalmus. The bibliography alone confers upon the book great value to researchers and students, and this value is enhanced by the text, which is a helpful introduction to the literature.

The 432 pages of text (exclusive of bibliography and indices) are roughly distributed as follows: about 100 pages on classification, morphology, collection, culture, and sterilization; about 150 pages on physical and chemical properties and physiology; about 100 pages on reproduction, cytology, genetics, and sexuality; and the remaining 80 pages on vitality and the life cycle, serology, parasites, techniques, and problems.

A student of Paramecium for more than 20 years, Wichterman has used his unsurpassed acquaintance with the literature to portray it faithfully. Unfortunately, however, the literature includes a great deal that is in need of more than faithful portrayal. To be sure, it includes the works of a number of acute