properties of the earth. More complete determination of the viscoelastic solution is needed.

The major contribution of this volume is the clarity of its message: an explicit determination of sources of error in sea-level determinants is required in every study; local, relative sea-level curves are the first step to a regional synthesis; regional eustasy can form a benchmark from which tectonic, isostatic, compaction, dynamic, or other geoidal trends can be determined; there is no "global eustatic" curve, but rather a changing four-dimensional trend surface that can be addressed with sufficient data; and there are compelling societal needs to study sea-level, because of present effects on the world's coastlines and projected trends of future rise in sea levels.

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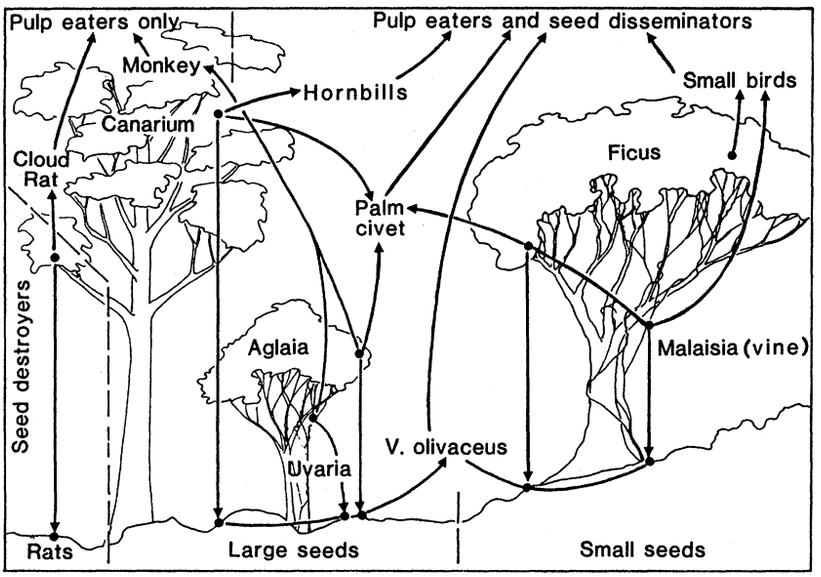
Frugivorous Reptiles

Gray's Monitor Lizard. WALTER AUFFENBERG. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville, 1988. xii, 419 pp., illus. $39.

The varanid lizards, comprising 36 extant species ranging from 0.3 to 3.0 meters in total length, have long attracted attention as morphological, physiological, and ecological analogues of placental predators, usually without adequate background knowledge. Until 1976, Gray's monitor was known only from two old, puzzling museum specimens, and even its existence was in doubt. During 22 months of fieldwork, the author of this book achieved more than 100,000 contacts with 12 radiotelemetered animals, painstakingly examined more than 125 specimens for a variety of purposes, and also studied other local animals and plants. *Varanus olivaceus* emerges as a large species (total length to 1.75 meters), restricted to small areas in the Philippine Islands, the most frugivorous living lizard, and all the more interesting because several of its congeners are specialized carnivores.

Gray's monitor is a slow-moving, secretive, and very choosy forager, in contrast to most other varanids, with their frenetic behavior and catholic diets. Adults eat mainly the fruits of about ten species of trees, supplemented by land snails during lean times. The fruits tend to be oily, possess features that might enhance seed dispersal by slowing their passage through the gut, and are eaten only on the ground and when freshly ripe. A caecum and other unusual anatomical characteristics are functionally correlated with this peculiar lifestyle. As with many other tropical organisms, the future of Gray's monitor is uncertain, mainly owing to timber harvesting and illegal hunting.

Several blurry pages, a few stylistic inconsistencies, and an apparent publication lag (most references are pre-1984) detract from this book. Specialists will find minor things



"Schematic representation of feeding interactions at trees of major fruit species [utilized by] *V. olivaceous*. Two major types are shown: those with small and with large seeds. Some fruit predators find their food in the trees, others on the ground. Fruit predators are divided into seed destroyers and seed disseminators." [From *Gray's Monitor Lizard*]

to criticize (for example, reptiles don't have "masseter" muscles), and some will disagree with more substantive aspects. For example, Auffenberg accepts an amalgam of previous phylogenies (themselves based on limited, inadequately analyzed, and conflicting evidence), treats living taxa as ancestors, and mentions the extensive fossil record of varanids only as evidence for predation by ancient humans. The resulting narrative falls short of a convincing evolutionary and biogeographic perspective.

However satisfying for its own sake, natural history often is more useful when guided by broader theoretical concerns. That can be hard, because both fieldwork and scholarship are highly time-intensive activities, but this book illustrates the rich potential rewards of the effort. It is even better than the author's *Behavioral Ecology of the Komodo Monitor* (University Presses of Florida, 1981), provides an intriguing, detailed case study for future conceptual syntheses, and will interest herpetologists, behavioral and evolutionary ecologists, and tropical biologists. The conservation recommendations are especially compelling because they incorporate an appreciation for the customs and economy of local people. Auffenberg is still studying monitors, and rumor has it we can look forward to still another compilation of hard-earned knowledge and important insights from this unusually broad biologist.

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Some Other Books of Interest

Three Decades of *Daedalus*. American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA, 1988. xii, 498 pp. Paper, $5. Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. 117, no. 3 (summer 1988).

Though the journal received the name *Daedalus* in 1955, it was in 1958 that the *Proceedings* of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (which has been published intermittently since 1846) became a quarterly that took as its goal "to give the intellectual community a strong voice of its own." Hence this anniversary issue, which reprints essays by Erik H. Erikson, Alice S. Rossi, John Maynard Smith, Czeslaw Milosz, Robert N. Bellah, John T. Noonan, Jr., Roger W. Shattuck, Gerald Holton, Frank E. Manuel, Octavio Paz, Northrop Frye, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Kenneth S. Lynn, Lewis Thomas, Elizabeth Hardwick, David Baltimore, Jean Starobinski, Stanley Hoffmann, Judith N. Shklar, John Hope Franklin, Mary Douglas, and Per Olov Enquist. In a preface to the issue the journal's editor, Stephen R. Graubard, sketches its history, describes its editorial procedures (designed to bring together "men and women of disparate opinions who would not necessarily agree but could be counted on to maintain civilized discourse" and involving intensive interaction among contributors) and notes some of the broad social concerns that its content has reflected or anticipated. In conclusion, Graubard writes, "To say that contemporary scholarship may in another day be seen as one of the more attractive intellectual features of the twentieth century, an age not conspicuous for its civilized qualities, is to express a wish that an editor, looking over such a record, may legitimately ask readers to consider."—**K.L.**

A Bicentenary History of the Linnean Society of London. ANDREW THOMAS GAGE and WILLIAM THOMAS STEARN. Published for the Linnean Society of London by Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1988. x, 242 pp., illus. $25.

"Because the Linnean Society is the world's oldest active biological society and because for virtually 200 years it has provided common ground for both zoologists and botanists, . . . no other society has gathered into its fellowship so many distinguished naturalists," writes William Stearn in the preface to this volume. In 1938 Andrew Gage produced a history of the society, and the present bicentenary volume brings that work up to date, retaining Gage's text with some emendations by Stearn. The first 12 chapters of the volume provide a chronological account of the society's activities, beginning with its forerunners and proceeding presidency by presidency to January 1988. Subsequent chapters are devoted specifically to the society's meetings, publications, awards and grants, botanical and zoological collections (which include those of Carl Linnaeus, along with his books and correspondence), library, portraits and busts of "worthies distinguished in natural history," membership, and finance. Appendixes give further details regarding publications, officers, and staff. "On the whole the Society's life has seemed unexciting," Stearn comments, "and has either been so respectable or so adept at the suppression of possible scandal . . . that unfortunately the readers will not find records here of the personal infighting and jealousy which enliven the histories of [some other British scientific institutions]." He expresses the hope, however, that "much of interest will be found . . . in the variety of characters who have contributed to the Linnean Society's maintenance and achievement for two centuries."—**K.L.**

Books Received

Analytical Isotachophoresis. P. Boček *et al.* VCH, New York, 1987. xviii, 237 pp., illus. $110. Electrophoresis Library, vol. 1.

Analytical Techniques for Thin Films. K. N. Tu and R. Rosenberg, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1988. xii, 493 pp., illus. $89.95. Treatise on Materials Science and Technology, vol. 27.

Animal Energetics. Vol. 2, Bivalvia through Reptilia. T. J. Pandian and F. John Vernberg, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1987. xiv, 631 pp., illus. $115.

Angiotensin and Blood Pressure Regulation. Joseph W. Harding *et al.*, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1988. viii, 242 pp., illus. $55. Research Topics in Physiology, vol. 10. From a lecture series, Pullman, WA, 1985.