



## Book Review

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his critical reading of an earlier draft of the manuscript and for his help in the identification of the parasites, to Perry de Ribeira for training in the use of mist-nets, and to the School of Animal Biology, University College of North Wales, for secretarial assistance.

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#### BOOK REVIEW . . .

**Pathobiology of Marine Mammal Diseases** (2 vol.), Edwin B. Howard, ed. CRC Press, 2000 Corporate Boulevard, N.W., Boca Raton, Florida 33431, USA. 1983. Vol. 1—238 pp.; Vol. 2—233 pp. Each volume priced at \$68.00 (US) in USA, \$78.00 (US) outside USA.

The announcement that a book was being prepared on the diseases of marine mammals was welcomed by many working in this area. There was a need; and unfortunately there still is a need, as the present effort does not fill the void.

The publication consists of two volumes, hard-bound and printed on good quality paper. There are nine contributors. Volume 1 contains five chapters, the first chapter is an introduction and probably is supposed to take the place of a preface. The first volume contains 238 pages of which 172 are photographs. Volume 2 contains six chapters, 233 pages, of which 148 pages are photographs. Together, pages of photographs make up to 68% of the volumes.

If a photograph is worth a thousand words, one would expect to find a wealth of information because of them. Not so. The many pho-

tographs are mostly of poor quality, some unnecessary, and some irrelevant. There is complete disregard for the economy of space as a large number of the pages are half-blank. Some photomicrographs have magnifications, most do not. The poor reproduction of some of them is probably the result of black-and-white reproductions from colored transparencies.

There are many typographical errors, misspelled names of authors and animals, use of non-words ("irregardless"), a tendency towards pomposity—e.g., "that some atavistic impulse triggered by a gallimaufry of possible etiologies." The text is poorly referenced and in some instances there seems to have been very little attempt to review pertinent literature. The editing is poor.

The cost of the volumes is prohibitive. Even though there are some good sections, these volumes cannot be recommended.

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