

Buchbesprechungen

Devonian Fishes and Plants

of Miguasha, Quebec, Canada

H.-P. Schultze and R. Cloutier (editors)



Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil

20. Schultze, H. -P. & R. Cloutier (eds.): *Devonian Fishes and Plants of Miguasha, Quebec, Canada*. – Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, München, 1996. 374 S. ISBN 3-931516-03-2.

Among fossil localities, Miguasha, better known in the classic geological and paleontological literature under the name "Scaumenac Bay", is considered as one of the most important sites of fish paleontology. For a long time, it has been the best documented upper Devonian vertebrate locality, famous for being the home locality of *Bothriolepis canadensis*, the best known antiarch placoderm, and of *Eusthenopteron foordi*, the crossopterygian central to numerous studies on early vertebrate structure. Surprisingly, no monograph of the whole locality was available yet, and the goal of the book has been to fill this gap.

Starting with a chapter on the history of the locality, the book includes 25 papers on geology, stratigraphy, paleoenvironment, preservation of fossils, plants, and animals of the locality, written by leading experts of the locality and of the respective groups. Paleobotany is rather poorly represented at this site, and it mainly consists of spores that give a rather good spectrum of the surrounding

vegetal landscape. Chapters on Chelicerata and conchostracan Crustacea concern the rather scarce arthropodan fauna. More than two thirds of the volume are devoted to various vertebrate "fish" groups. Shorter chapters are dealing with Osteostraci, Anaspids, Placoderms, and Acnathodians that are excellently revised. A special account should be made to the extensive revisions of the actinopterygian *Cheirolepis canadensis*, the Dipnoans, and the Crossopterygians. Especially the famous *Eusthenopteron foordi* - associated since 50 years with the name of E. Jarvik - is extensively treated in two chapters. The book ends with a study of coprolites that reveal some important elements for the environmental analysis.

One strength of this book is the combination of volume, high printing quality, and reasonable price. In particular the photoplates are beautifully reproduced and highly instructive, but also the general style indicates that the publisher loved this contribution. The book will serve as a reference volume not only for Devonian paleoichthyologists and paleobotanists, but also all biologists interested in evolutionary studies in connection with the development of early vertebrates will find it very useful and stimulating.

M. Baehr

21. Remane, R. & E. Wachmann: *Zikaden kennenlernen, beobachten*. – Naturbuchverlag, Augsburg, 1993. 288 S., zahlr. Fotos und Zeichnungen. ISBN 3-89440-0447.

In diesem Buch wird dem Leser ein Überblick über die Zikaden Europas gegeben. Das Buch ist unterteilt in einen allgemeinen Teil, in dem die Autoren den Bau und die Lebensweise dieser Insekten beschreiben und einen speziellen Teil mit Bestimmungstabellen und Einzeldarstellungen. Die Tabellen enthalten übersichtliche, klare Zeichnungen, die eine Bestimmung bis zur Familie ermöglichen. Die wichtigsten Arten der Familien werden mit Hilfe von Einzeldarstellungen besprochen. Zu jeder dort beschriebenen Art gibt es ein Farbfoto. Außerdem erfahren wir hier etwas über Lebensweise, Verwechslungsmöglichkeiten und Vorkommen der Arten. Durch die eindrucksvollen Bilder und die Art, wie die Zikaden beschrieben werden, ist es den Autoren gelungen, dem Leser die Schönheit der Zikaden nahezubringen und etwas von ihrer eigenen Faszination für diese Tiere zu vermitteln. Nicht nur für Spezialisten empfehlenswert.

U. Oesterling