

Mammals — Their Latin Names Explained: A guide to animal classification by **A. F. Gotch**; Blandford, £5.95.

Key Works to the Fauna and Flora of the British Isles and North-western Europe, edited by **G. J. Kerrich**, **D. L. Hawksworth** and **R. W. Sims**. Systematics Association Special Volume no 9. Academic Press, £7.80.

Apart from its misleading subtitle — no doubt imposed by a publisher terrified that nobody would know what a mammal is — A. F. Gotch's book is a most valuable work of reference. For about a quarter of the 4300 odd species of living mammal, he describes the meaning of both the Latin and English names, which can be very odd: it is by no means unknown for the name *minor* to be attached to the largest species of a genus. Most of the larger and all the better known mammals are included, the balance being the innumerable rare, localised and little known species, about half of them rodents (1500 species). There is also a brief indication of distribution, but although there are a few line drawings it is of course in no sense an identification book.

We are all in the debt of the Systematics Association for bringing up-to-date and expanding their former *Bibliography of Key Works* and making it an even more essential tool for the researcher and the naturalist. This is just a bibliography, with no text apart from the preface, but for those who want to track down the Homoptera-Auchenorhyncha, the Basidiomycetes or even the freshwater fish it will be invaluable for many years.

R. S. R. FITTER

Ecology of African Mammals, by **M. J. Delany** and **D. C. D. Happold**. Longman, £25.

Wildlife Management in Savannah and Woodland: Recent progress in African studies, edited by **S. S. Ayayi** and **L. B. Halstead**. Taylor and Francis, £12.

Almost twenty-five years ago, when I sailed through the Suez canal to take up a teaching appointment in Kenya, I was surprised to find that the students were still learning their biology from English textbooks. Since that time, although there has been a veritable population explosion of research on the African biota, textbooks in the English language for University students of ecology have remained uncommon. Delany and Happold have tackled a formidable task in trying to bring together this vast literature in a single volume that brings together our current knowledge on African mammal ecology. The result of their labours is a well-illustrated volume that will remain the starting point for students of African mammal ecology for many years to come.

They have divided their work into thirteen chapters arranged in four logical parts. Part 1 deals with both historic and contemporary aspects of mammalian zoogeography. This is followed by a section which describes the ecology of the main biotic zones, while Part 3 deals with life history phenomena, behavioural ecology, environmental physiology and energetics; the final chapter is on the population ecology of both large and small mammals. The authors' wide interest and knowledge have produced a book that for once does not consider only the large herbivores and predators.

The modern student of ecology will find the final section on the ecology of man and mammals of special interest. Frequently the wildlife biologist tends to be constrained by the more esoteric limits of his subject, so that a consideration of man in the context of wildlife and conservation is forgotten. This brief but important chapter will perhaps make us more aware that many more of our research programmes should be concerned with the management and utilisation of wildlife populations.