saving biodiversity and maintaining the ability to produce it in the future. Chapter 17's all-encompassing phylogenetic perspective leads inevitably to a bemused recognition of the irrelevance of the first goal: humans are not in fact threatening the vast majority of the earth's biological diversity, but just the products of a few rather recent branches of it. It therefore exposes the broadest phylogenetic perspective as perhaps too broad to be useful at all in conservation: indeed, how can any human endeavour with a remit of (optimistically) a few thousand years seem relevant in the face of more than 3 billion years of evolutionary history? The logical fruits of such a wide perspective are comical in their uselessness: 'Currently in our midst are talented sociopaths devoted to the destruction of our civilization and, present in the world, if not yet in their hands, are the means to achieve this. Should this come to pass, the silver lining will be the salvation of tropical forests' (p. 390). Chapter 18 is contrastingly sober in its consideration of the second goal, but in the end concludes similarly. The authors show there are simply too many unknowns and unknowables in the evolutionary process for serious thinkers to believe that any conservation decisions made today can predictably affect evolutionary outcomes thousands or millions of years into the future.

On the whole, only a pedant could find points to complain about in this volume. Although from the title one might reasonably expect to find a chapter about the conservation implications of the dwindling number of traditional taxonomists, in fact this book has little to say about the fruits of comparative morphology. Although the heavy emphasis on molecular phylogenetics may be justified in the name of presenting the most current advances, a recent molecular theme in phylogeny and conservation that is absent (which of late has generated a lot of news, although perhaps not yet important scientific advances) is DNA barcoding. Finally, our pedant may be somewhat mystified to discover that the reptile gracing the front cover of this book is in fact a Boyd's forest dragon, mentioned fleetingly in Chapter 11, and not a tuatara that, with far more numerous mentions than any other single taxon in the book, easily qualifies it instead as the most apt poster child for phylogeny in conservation.

In rapidly advancing fields such as conservation genetics, edited volumes can play a role tending towards two extremes: they can either be the final resting place for random assemblages of work that has found no other outlet in a field that is expanding more rapidly than are publishing opportunities within it, or they can provide a more unified forum for in depth and critical work than individual journal articles typically allow, in a more timely and multifaceted manner than synthetic textbooks are typically able to. Happily for this reviewer, *Phylogeny and Conservation* falls quite solidly at the latter extreme. This book is an excellent example of how diligent editors can pull together a controversial part of a field, particularly if backed by institutions with sufficient clout and resources to attract top participants. With its timely contributions, this volume will be valuable as supplementary reading for any course in conservation genetics, and will be particularly useful to advanced graduate students presently puzzling their way through projects, to practising conservation geneticists weighing the use of phylogenetic techniques in their own work, and to policy makers considering the inclusion of phylogenetic factors in their decisions.

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Plant-Pollinator Interactions: From Specialization to Generalization by Nickolas M. Waser and Jeff Ollerton (eds) (2006), xii + 445 pp., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, USA. ISBN 0 226 87400 1 (pbk), USD 45.00/ GBP 28.50.

This book is divided into three main parts, covering the ecology and evolution of specialized and generalized pollination, community and biogeographic perspectives, and the application of knowledge of specialized and generalized pollination to agriculture and conservation. Within each section there are a number of chapters, written by researchers from 12 countries.

Ivory Markets of Europe: A Survey in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK by Esmond Martin and Daniel Stiles (2005), 104 pp., Care for the Wild International, West Sussex, UK and Save the Elephants, London, UK. ISBN 9966 9683 4 2 (pbk), unpriced.

This monograph details the findings of field work carried out in 2004 to assess the ivory trade in selected European countries. Martin and Stiles aimed to establish a set of baseline indicators for the ivory trade in Germany, the UK, France, Spain and Italy that can be used in the future to monitor the European ivory trade and detect changes. Many different aspects of the ivory trade in each of these five countries is described in detail. The report is illustrated with black and white drawings, and there are also some colour photographs.

State of the World 2006: A Global Portrait of Wildlife, Wetlands and Oceans by Sharon Guynap (ed.) (2005), xvi + 326 pp., Island Press, Washington, DC, USA. ISBN 1 59726 001 0 (pbk), USD 25.00.

This book, produced by the Wildlife Conservation Society, is the first in a new series that aims to provide

a single, authoritative source of information about the health of the natural world, as well as highlighting current issues and show-casing conservation efforts. Furthermore, each book in the series will include a section on a topic of concern; in *State of the World 2006* this topic is Hunting and the Wildlife Trade. The book includes essays by conservationists as well as snippets of news under headings such as Discoveries, Regulating the Wild, and Global News Highlights.

The following publications have been received at the Editorial Office and may be of interest to readers:

Antipredator Defenses in Birds and Mammals by Tim Caro (2005), xv + 591 pp., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, USA. ISBN 0 226094 36 7 (pbk), USD 38.00/GBP 27.00.

Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras: The Status of the Chondrichthyan Fishes by Sarah L. Fowler, Rachel D. Cavanagh, Merry Camhi, George H. Burgess, Gregor M. Cailliet, Sonja V. Fordham, Colin A. Simpfendorfer and John A. Musick (compilers and eds) (2005), x + 461 pp., IUCN/SSC Shark Specialist Group, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ISBN 2 8317 0700 5 (pbk), GBP 28.00.

Conservation and Development Interventions at the Wildlife/Livestock Interface: Implications for Wildlife, Livestock and Human Health by Steven A. Osofsky, Sarah Cleaveland, William B. Karesh, Michael D. Kock, Philip J. Nyhus, Lisa Starr and Angela Yang (eds) (2005), xxxiii + 220 pp., IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ISBN 2 8317 0864 8 (pbk), GBP 20.00.

Metacommunities: Spatial Dynamics and Ecological Communities by Marcel Holyoak, Mathew A. Leipold and Robert D. Holt (2005), xi + 513 pp., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, USA. ISBN 0 226 35064 9 (pbk), USD 38.00/GBP 24.00.

Nonequilibrium Ecology by Klaus Rohde (2005), x + 223 pp., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 0 521 67455 7 (pbk), GBP 35.00/USD 60.00.

Ecology of Populations by Esa Ranta, Per Lundberg and Veijo Kaitala (2006), xi + 373 pp., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 0 521 67033 0 (pbk), GBP 38.00.