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Noteworthy Books Received by the *Southeastern Naturalist*, Volume 11, Number 2, 2012

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Noteworthy Books

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Reproductive Biology and Phylogeny of Snakes. Robert D. Aldridge and David M. Sever (Eds.). 2011. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 714 pp. \$139.95, hardcover. ISBN 9781578087013. Covering a wide range of topics on snake reproduction and phylogeny, this comprehensive book discusses everything from primordial germ migration in developing embryos to semelparity (death after reproduction) in the asp viper. Beginning with a review of the history of snake reproductive studies, it presents new findings on development, placentation, spermatogenesis, male and female reproductive anatomy, hormonal control of reproduction, reproductive cycles, sex pheromones, and parental care. Rife with illustrations and color plates, this book offers comparative chapters on snake phylogenetics examining morphological characteristics alongside strictly molecular concerns.

Dolphin Confidential: Confessions of a Field Biologist. Maddalena Bearzi. 2012. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL. 216 pp. \$26, hardcover, ISBN 9780226040158. Who hasn't fantasized about the unique thrill of working among charismatic and clever dolphins in the wild? We need not live this solely in our imaginations anymore. With *Dolphin Confidential* Maddalena Bearzi invites all of us shore-bound dreamers to join her and travel alongside the dolphins. In this fascinating account, she takes us inside the world of a marine scientist and offers a firsthand understanding of marine

these magnificent, socially complex, highly intelligent, and emotional beings. An honest, down-to-earth analysis of what it means to be a marine biologist in the field today, *Dolphin Confidential* offers an entertaining, never less than candid, and always informative description of life among the dolphins.

Catalogue of Seed Plants of the West Indies. Pedro Acevedo-Rodriguez and Mark T. Strong. 2012. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, Washington, DC. 1192 pp. hardcover. ISBN 9781439839034. The catalogue enumerates all taxa of Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons, and Monocotyledons occurring in the West Indies archipelago excluding the islands off the coast of Venezuela (Netherlands Antilles, Venezuelan Antilles, Tobago, and Trinidad). For each accepted taxon, nomenclature (including synonyms described from the West Indies and their references to publication), distribution in the West Indies (including endemic, native, or exotic status), common names, and a numerical listing of literature records are given. Type specimen citations are provided for accepted names and synonyms of Cyperaceae, Sapindaceae, and some selected genera in several families including the Apocynaceae (*Plumeria*), Aquifoliaceae (*Ilex*), and Santalaceae (*Dendrophthora*). More than 30,000 names were treated comprising 208 families, 2033 genera, and 12,279 taxa, which includes exotic and commonly cultivated plants. The total number of indigenous taxa was approxi-

mammal behavior, as well as the frustrations, delights, and creativity that make up dolphin research. In this intimate narrative, Bearzi recounts her experiences at sea, tracing her own evolution as a woman and a scientist from her earliest travails to her transformation into an advocate for conservation and dolphin protection. These compelling, in-depth descriptions of her fieldwork also present a captivating look into dolphin social behavior and intelligence. The central part of the book is devoted to the metropolitan Bottlenose Dolphins of California, as Bearzi draws on her extensive experience to offer insights into the daily lives of these creatures—as well as the difficulties involved in collecting the data that transforms hunches into hypotheses and eventually scientific facts. The book closes by addressing the critical environmental and conservation problems facing

mately 10,470, of which 71% (7,446 taxa) are endemic to the archipelago or part of it. Fifteen new names, 37 combinations, and 7 lectotypifications are validated. A searchable website of this catalogue, maintained and continuously updated at the Smithsonian Institution, is available at <http://botany.si.edu/antilles/WestIndies/>.

Remaking Wormsloe Plantation: The Environmental History of a Lowcountry Landscape. Drew A. Swanson. 2012. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 336 pp. \$34.95, hardcover. ISBN 9780820341774. Why do we preserve certain landscapes while developing others without restraint? Drew A. Swanson's in-depth look at Wormsloe plantation, located on the salt marshes outside of Savannah, GA, explores that question while revealing the broad historical forces that have shaped the lowcountry