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BOOK REVIEW

Lizards in an Evolutionary Tree : Ecology and Adaptive Radiation of Anoles. By Jonathan B. Losos. *University of California Press, Berkeley, London, UK. 2009. 507 pages. Cloth £ 52.00.*

The lizards are becoming rare animals in nature almost throughout the world for many reasons, such as indiscriminate killing of these timid animals by hunters for fun or as biological specimens for use in the laboratory, destruction of habitats of these animals, food scarcity of its predators, hence more aggressive predation on these animals. At such a time, the attention paid on these lizards by the most experienced author on the subject is fascinating. The book spread into 17 chapters is really worth reading as they are based on the authors own extensive studies and thousands of publications – all synthesized together. This book explores the cutting edges of evolutionary biology and ecology, or search for patterns and causal explanations for biodiversity. Diversification factors, interaction and competition leading to the fate of anoles on this changing planet – are the basic concepts all through chapters of this book.

Some of the key words upon which the book revolved are as follows : Evolutionary biology, anole faunas, phylogenetics, anole relationships, biogeography, ecomorphological diversity, population biology, social behavior, sexual selection, sexual dimorphism, habitat use, adaptive radiation, and natural selection.

Lucid language and simplicity in writing created magic throughout the book. The reader can go through the lines absorbing largely the new concepts on these lizards. This book will stimulate the biologists and ecologists to think and explore again to save these beautiful creatures on earth. #

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Grass : In Search of Human Habitat. By Joe C. Truett. *California University Press, Berkeley, California. 2010. 217 pages, Cloth. £24.95.*

Telling about grasses, Walt Whitman remarks, "If you want me again, look for me under your boot-soles". These words generate great stimulation in the mind of scientists, particularly ecologists to see more information, underlying secrets and ideas on grass whose ecology and regeneration have been largely neglected throughout the world. But while searching 217 pages of the book, a serious reader is disappointed. This book is written in a light vein, in a leisurely manner, with ocean of words (thanks to author's wife who steered the writer towards clarity and away from verbosity) with the central theme – grass- lost in the depth.

In 20 chapters the author has described his experience in the schools and colleges where he spent his lot of time. Thus if you are not a serious reader or you have time in your hand, the reading this book will be fascinating. The writer speaks well to his readers so that the book can be read with ease and interest. The book should largely be kept in a popular series section to be useful to that category of readers. #