

KLAUS ADOLPHS: *Bibliotheca Cordyliformium*. – Squamata Publ., St. Augustin, 303 pp., ISBN-10: 3-9805086-1-7

Cordylid lizards have always only played a subordinate role in the science of herpetology, and it is apparent that “only” an amateur researcher would be able to muster the enthusiasm, time and diligence to create such a standard reference for this group of lizards. This shows again just how important amateurs can be for research, especially when they, like this author has done, dedicate more than three decades of their time to the girdle-tailed and plated lizards. The “*Bibliotheca Cordyliformium*” is actually more than “just” a catalogue of references. As an introduction, the author provides an overview of the systematics of all valid species and their synonyms plus brief notes on their distribution ranges, quite in the manner of traditional “Tierreich” lists. This is then followed by what probably impresses most in this book: KLAUS ADOLPHS’ listing of altogether 1373 sources that deal with or discuss cordyliform lizards. Each of these references is usually complemented with a brief description of the contents of this particular publication and which species is/are discussed or described there. Landmark papers are even quoted with a summary of their contents.

Since the last edition was published in 1996, some 250 references from the past ten years and 50 previously overlooked publications have been added. It now even contains papers that have appeared in minor magazines, privately published works, and papers dealing with fossil forms.

The table of contents makes it clear that this is a second, revised edition of this work. Besides an authors’ index it now also sports taxonomic and subject registers. There are only two suggestions to be made for improving a possible third edition. In order to make the book more visually appealing, I would suggest that at least all the species be portrayed in colour plates, which would provide the “amateur user” of Cordyliformes with an overview of the diversity of this most interesting group of lizards. Even though this would probably bring the price of the book up, it would certainly also make it even more attractive. The present version uses German language, but should be readily understood by foreign scientists and amateurs as well. Nevertheless, I would recommend that the few German texts be translated into English so that an English edition of this remarkable work can attract a broader, international readership.

In short, KLAUS ADOLPHS has created a trea-

tise that demonstrates how thrilling and speciose cordyliform lizards are. It offers amateurs, students and scientists alike an extremely timesaving resource catalogue, which the latter should use to liberate this group of lizards from their subordinate role in herpetology.

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