

## Recensiones bibliográficas / *Book reviews*

**Fauna Ibérica, Vol. 27. Lophophorata. Phoronida, Brachiopoda.** Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales. 276 pp. Madrid, 2005.

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As a student of brachiopods it is unusual, but a delight, to have in this book a comprehensive description of phoronids and brachiopods so lavishly illustrated with many fine colour plates. The descriptions cover the phoronids and brachiopods from Iberian waters, the Balearic and Canary Islands. Following an introductory discussion on the relationships of the two groups the text is divided

into two: The phoronids (pp. 21-56) prepared by Christian Emig of Marseille in collaboration with Carmen Roldán (Universidad Complutense, Madrid) and José Manuel Viéitez (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Madrid), and the brachiopods (pp. 59-177) prepared by Fernando Álvarez of Oviedo in collaboration with Christian Emig of Marseille. A full bibliography follows, then nomenclatorial notes on both groups, keys for the identification of the phoronids and brachiopods, a glossary and finally 24 sides of plates, many of which are colour photographs. Not only does the colour display the subtle colouration of some brachiopod shells, but it helps differentiate areas of dried soft tissues from hard skeletal shell.

Emig presents the descriptions of 9 species found in these waters with welcome introductory information that is well illustrated by drawings and a few photographs. Unfortunately there is a lack of scale markings. The introductory sections will be found by many as a good introduction to this poorly known group of animals.

Álvarez describes 35 species of brachiopod distributed amongst 21 genera, 5 orders and the three subphyla

differentiated within the classification of the Brachiopoda in the *Brachiopod Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* in 2000 (Williams, Carlson & Brunton, 2000). The generously illustrated introduction draws on published illustrations, those from other brachiopod specialists and many of his own photographs illustrating the morphology, anatomy and larvae of brachiopods. Species descriptions are illustrated using introductory figures and specific figures for the species involved. As with the phoronids the brachiopods are all keyed for identification and they are accompanied by small thumb-nail sketches of each species which should prove useful in their identification. Each description includes notes on the geographical distribution and some have additional biological comments, such as those on reproduction and larval development.

Although the book is about Iberian phoronids and brachiopods, it provides a good introduction to these groups, found extensively around the world. The brachiopods described represent the major orders to be found elsewhere and the morphological and biological sections will be found useful to any students of these groups. The series «Fauna Iberica» is to be congratulated on this its latest volume, as are the authors on the production of this useful guide to phoronids and brachiopods from Iberian waters. It should be available in all biological and palaeontological libraries.

### References

- WILLIAMS, A., CARLSON, S. J. & BRUNTON, C. H. C., 2000. Brachiopod classification. In: *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Part H, Brachiopoda (Revised)*, Vol. 2. Geological Society of America & University of Kansas Press. Boulder & Lawrence: 1-27.

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