

New Titles

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teeth (*hypsodonty*) or the possible multiple origins of vertebrate teeth. He does not evaluate or offer opinion on topics and ideas, although I would have liked to have seen either. In the field of dental morphology, *Mammal Teeth* is a great contrast to a book like *Dental Functional Morphology* (Lucas 2004), which is more of a personal view of the topic. Yet this book offers significant advantages over previous titles—namely, that it includes illustrations of over 140 mammals. Other books are limited to Northern Hemisphere taxa, or they are not comprehensive in all family-level groups.

Another advantage to *Mammal Teeth* is its consistency of style with regard to the figures of skulls and teeth used throughout the book, which greatly aids any comparative study. Skulls are shown as outlines displaying sutures and foramina, and teeth are shaded gray. This design, however, can at times make the positions of skull openings difficult to discern. The drawings of tooth rows follow the common convention for occlusal diagrams of teeth, with cusps indicated as dots, crests as lines, and valleys as dashed lines. This strict scheme can leave some figures tricky to interpret, such as that for *Thylacoleo* (figure 9.3A). I would also favor having tooth positions or series identified on the figure, along with some indication of scale. In general, although the figures are clear, I feel that they often do not convey the beauty and subtlety of the morphology they are representing. A few detailed line drawings are included (such as of marsupial teeth), but additional line drawings or high-quality photographs would have added greatly to the book and possibly increased an appreciation in the reader for the intricacies of dental morphology.

Mammal Teeth is an outstanding and valuable resource for the novice or student starting out in the field, and it can also be used successfully as a reference for professional biologists or odontologists. I will certainly recommend it for my own students working in dental morphology and perhaps for

those colleagues who see teeth as just a bunch of old bones.

AListair Evans

Alistair Evans (alistair.evans@monash.edu) is a dental functional morphologist and an Australian Research Fellow in the School of Biological Sciences at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

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