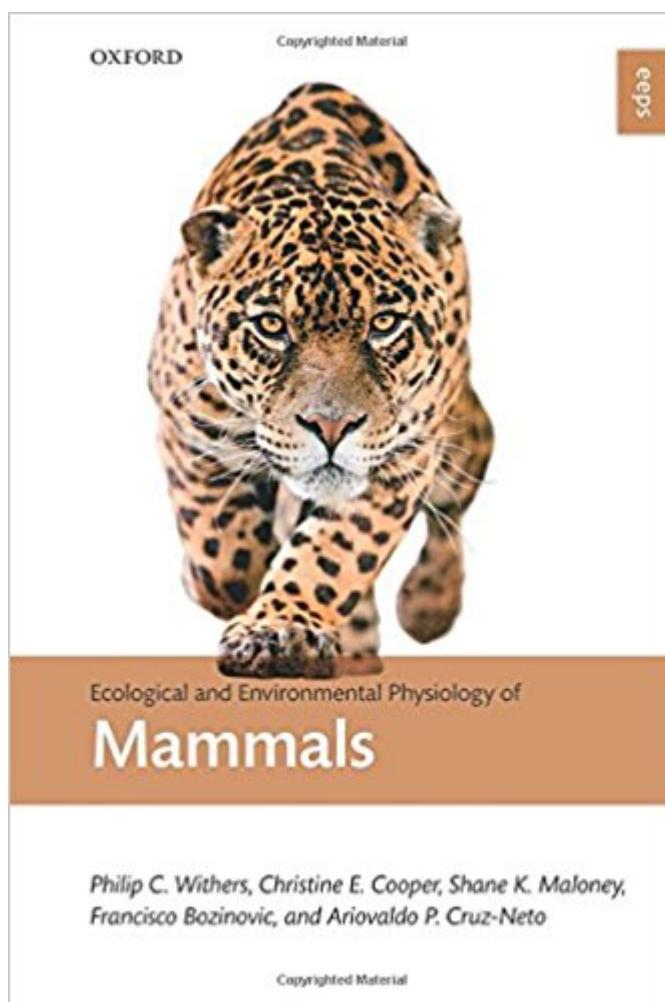


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Ecological And Environmental Physiology Of Mammals (Ecological And Environmental Physiology Series)



Synopsis

Mammals are the so-called "pinnacle" group of vertebrates, successfully colonising virtually all terrestrial environments as well as the air (bats) and sea (especially pinnipeds and cetaceans). How mammals function and survive in these diverse environments has long fascinated mammologists, comparative physiologists and ecologists. Ecological and Environmental Physiology of Mammals explores the physiological mechanisms and evolutionary necessities that have made the spectacular adaptation of mammals possible. It summarises our current knowledge of the complex and sophisticated physiological approaches that mammals have for survival in a wide variety of ecological and environmental contexts: terrestrial, aerial, and aquatic. The authors have a strong comparative and quantitative focus in their broad approach to exploring mammal ecophysiology. As with other books in the Ecological and Environmental Physiology Series, the emphasis is on the unique physiological characteristics of mammals, their adaptations to extreme environments, and current experimental techniques and future research directions are also considered. This accessible text is suitable for graduate level students and researchers in the fields of mammalian comparative physiology and physiological ecology, including specialist courses in mammal ecology. It will also be of value and use to the many professional mammologists requiring a concise overview of the topic.

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Philip Withers completed his PhD in biology at the University of California at Los Angeles, in 1976, on fossorial and heterothermic mammals and birds. He then visited The University of Cape Town as a Postdoctoral Fellow, studying thermoregulation, energetics and water balance of desert vertebrates. He has subsequently held academic positions at Portland State University and currently the University of Western Australia. His major research area is comparative animal physiology, with a focus on the metabolic, thermal, respiratory, hygric and solute physiology of terrestrial vertebrates. His research melds laboratory and field studies to examine the mechanistic basis of physiological processes in an environmental context for wild, free-living animals.

Christine Cooper completed her PhD in zoology at the University of Western Australia, studying numbat physiology and behaviour. She then spent a year as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of New England, studying thermoregulatory physiology. Since 2005 she has been a research and teaching academic at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. Her major research area is environmental physiology, with a focus on the metabolic, hygric and thermal physiology of mammals and birds. Dr Cooper combines laboratory and field techniques to examine the mechanistic basis of physiological processes, and applies these to wild, free-living animals. Her work addresses basic scientific questions of environmental adaptation and evolution by applying physiological techniques to examine behavioural and ecological responses to environmental conditions and life history variables. Her work also directly contributes to improved species conservation and environmental management.

Shane Maloney did his PhD on emu thermal biology at the University of New South Wales. He then did a post-doc with Duncan Mitchell in South Africa, focussing on brain and scrotal temperature regulation in mammals. Since 1999 he has been at the University of Western Australia. His predominant research field is thermal physiology, including work on production animals and humans. He is interested in physiological responses to the environment in general.

Francisco Bozinovic is drawn to integrative animal biology by a fascination and curiosity-based drive to understand how animals work, behave and evolve. Specifically, his research interests cover a broad range of topics in integrative animal biology, but he is mostly engaged in ecological physiology with strong ties into behavioral ecology, evolutionary ecology and biogeography.

Ariovaldo P. Cruz-Neto is author of over 50 publications on the physiology and ecology of a wide group of vertebrates,

particularly mammals, with an extensive experience with bats. He has research experience on metabolic physiology, especially with topics concerning the proximate and ultimate factors responsible for patterns of energy expenditure in mammals.

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