

BOOK REVIEW

CHRISTOPHER KEMP. 2017. **The Lost Species: Great Expeditions in the Collections of National History.** (ISBN-13: 978-0-226-38621-8, hbk). The University of Chicago Press, 1427 East 60th St., Chicago, Illinois 60637, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.press.uchicago.edu). \$30.00 US, 256 pp., 25 halftones, 6" × 9".

Natural history collections harbor some things that most manage to overlook: new discoveries. Institutions such as the American Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum maintain colossal collections that, with the guidance of Kemp, we explore in *The Lost Species: Great Expeditions in the Collections of National History*. Kemp relays amazing instances where new species to science were discovered among the cabinets of natural history collections. In his book, Kemp recounts the moments a specimen was collected whether on the coast of Australia or in the desert within Area 51, and describes the instance a specimen was finally uncovered and identified sometimes decades later. *The Lost Species* adds to the narrative for natural history collections as key players when preserving earth's biodiversity and natural heritage. Specimens are not collected to become storage but are collected to be studied! The stories told by Kemp are likely a few among many cases where new discoveries within collections are due to the efforts of a scientist with a keen eye for details.

A running trend in *The Lost Species* is the importance of recognizing distinct qualities. It's easy to take a glance at a beetle and say it's a beetle. It takes true determination to examine every possible feature of a specimen and to recognize even the most minute details as critically unique. Not only does Kemp connect collections with important species conservation, but he emphasizes the importance of distinction in all fields of biology.

For those of you who view museum collections as packed up boxes and cabinets, please take another look. *The Lost Species* will provide a view into natural history collections that will inspire a new perspective towards their potential. The book is full of far off places, other worldly organisms, and hints to the complexities that come with studying life on Earth.—*Sarah Brown, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*

Sample of Contents:**The Vertebrates**

- Pushed up a Mountain and into the Clouds: The Olinguito (*Bassaricyon neblina*)
- Beneath a Color 83 Sky: The Ucucha Mouse (*Thomasomys ucucha*)
- Going on a Tapir Hunt: The Little Black Tapir (*Tapirus kabomani*)
- A Taxonomic Confusion: The Saki Monkeys (*Pithecia* genus)
- Scattered to the Corners of the World: The Arfak Pygmy Bandicoot (*Microperoryctes aplini*)
- The One That Got Away for 160 Years: Wallace's Pike Cichlid (*Crenicichla monicae*)
- Here Be Dragons: The Ruby Seadragon (*Phyllopteryx dewysea*)
- A Century in a Jar: The Thorius Salamanders
- From a Green Bowl: The Overlooked Squeaker Frog (*Arthroleptis kutogundua*)

The Invertebrates

- Treasure in the By-Catch: The Gall Wasps (*Cynipoidea* species)
- The Biomimic: The Lightning Cockroach (*Lucihormetica luckae*)
- Sunk beneath the Surface in a Sea of Beetles: Darwin's Rove Beetle (*Darwinilus sedarisi*)
- The Spoils of a Distant War: The Congo Duskhawker Dragonfly (*Gynacantha congolica*)
- A Specimen in Two Halves: Muir's Wedge-Shaped Beetle (*Rhipidocyrtus muiri*)
- Mary Kingsley's Longhorn Beetle (*Pseudictator kingsleyae*)
- The Giant Flies (*Gauromydas papavero* and *Gauromydas mateus*)
- It Came from Area 51: The Atomic Tarantula Spider (*Aphonopelma atomicum*)
- The Host with the Most: The Nematode Worm (*Ohbayashinema aspeira*)
- From a Time Machine on Cromwell Road: Ablett's Land Snail (*Pseudopomatias abletti*)
- In Sight of Land: Payden's Isopod (*Exosphaeroma paydenae*)

Botanical

- In an Ikea Bag: The Custard Apple Family (*Monanthotaxis* Genus)

The Others

- Waiting with Their Jackets On: The Fossils (Paleontology Specimens Collected by Elmer Riggs)
- The First Art: The Earliest Hominin Engraving (a 500,000-Year-Old Shell)