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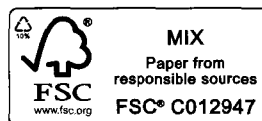
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CONTENTS



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REGULAR ARTICLES

- Bayesian Analysis of Biogeography when the Number of Areas is Large
Michael J. Landis, Nicholas J. Matzke, Brian R. Moore, and John P. Huelsenbeck..... 789
- Multilocus Species Delimitation in a Complex of Morphologically Conserved Trapdoor Spiders (Mygalomorphae, Antrodiaetidae, *Aliatypus*)
Jordan D. Satler, Bryan C. Carstens, and Marshal Hedin 805
- Minimizing the Average Distance to a Closest Leaf in a Phylogenetic Tree
Frederick A. Matsen IV, Aaron Gallagher, and Connor O. McCoy..... 824
- Ecological Opportunity and Incumbency in the Diversification of Repeated Continental Colonizations by Muroid Rodents
John J. Schenk, Kevin C. Rowe, and Scott J. Stepan 837
- Recent Diversification of a Marine Genus (*Tursiops* spp.) Tracks Habitat Preference and Environmental Change
Andre E. Moura, Sandra C. A. Nielsen, Julia T. Vilstrup, J. Victor Moreno-Mayar, M. Thomas P. Gilbert, Howard W. I. Gray, Ada Natoli, Luciana Möller, and A. Rus Hoelzel 865
- Bite of the Cats: Relationships between Functional Integration and Mechanical Performance as Revealed by Mandible Geometry
Paolo Piras, Leonardo Maiorino, Luciano Teresi, Carlo Meloro, Federico Lucci, Tassos Kotsakis, and Pasquale Raia..... 878
- Efficient Exploration of the Space of Reconciled Gene Trees
Gergely J. Szöllősi, Wojciech Rosikiewicz, Bastien Boussau, Eric Tannier, and Vincent Daubin..... 901

BOOK REVIEWS

- Biotic Evolution and Environmental Change in Southeast Asia
Visotheary Ung 913
- The Cambrian Explosion: The Reconstruction of Animal Biodiversity
Graham E. Budd 915
- Phylogenomics: A Primer
Susanne S. Renner and Mathieu Piednoël..... 917

Cover Illustration: *Lophiomys imhausi*, perhaps the most distinct muroid rodent with its armored skull, three extra pairs of ribs, and fur that sequesters toxic compounds, represents one of the five colonizations of muroids into Africa. Despite our prediction that the first lineage to colonize Africa should have a more rapid and greater speciation rate compared to subsequent colonizations, we failed to find a signature of ecological opportunity in this lineage, or indeed, in most lineages after colonizing new continents, with the exception of South American sigmodontines. Details of the ecological opportunity model tested and a muroid rodent phylogeny can be found in Schenk et al., pg 837–864. *Lophiomys* illustration from Milne-Edwards 1867 *Nouvelles Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris*. Graphic design by A. Mayumi Kawamoto of Rising Sun Design.