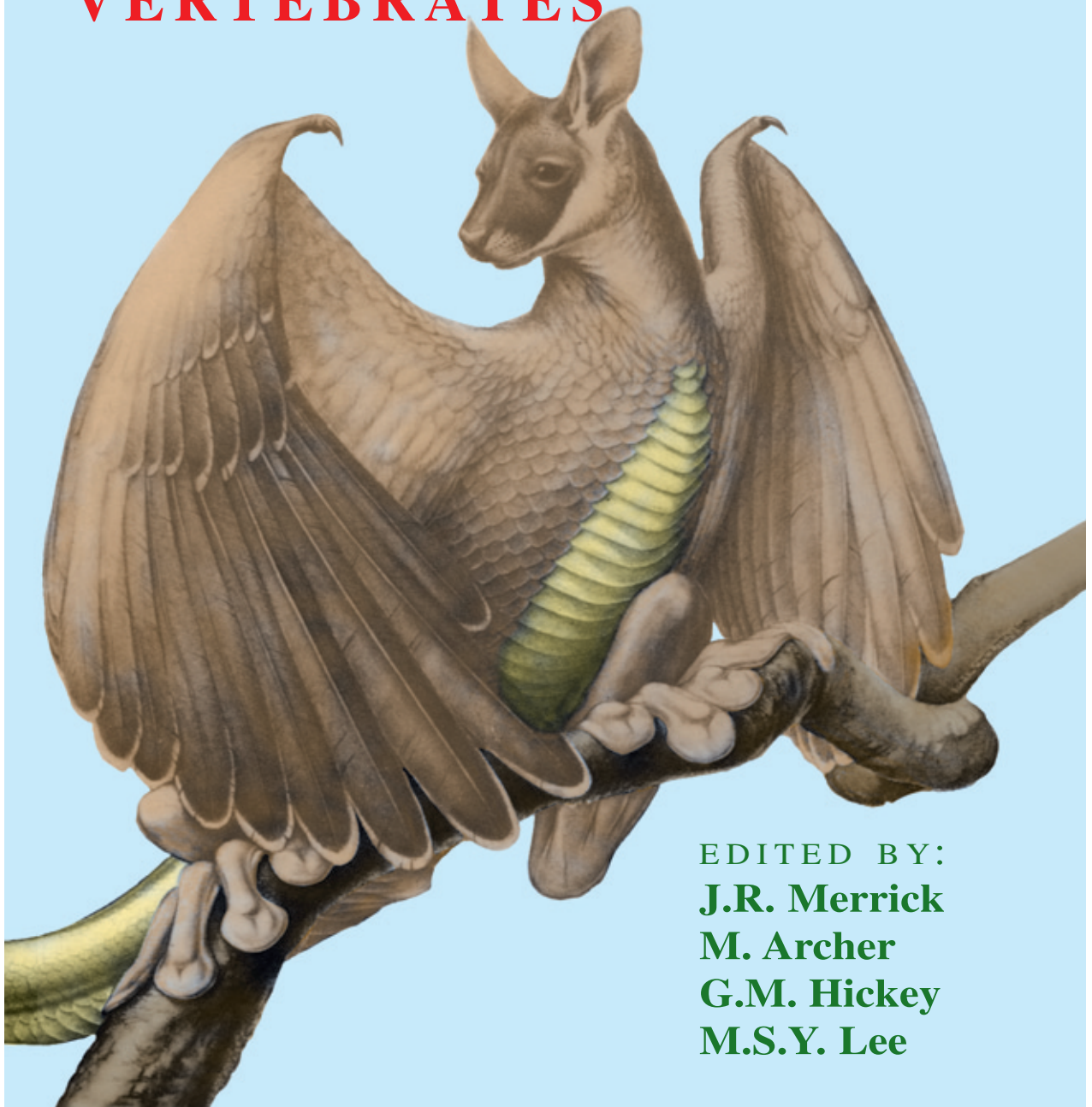


# Announcing

## EVOLUTION AND BIOGEOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALASIAN VERTEBRATES



EDITED BY:  
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**M. Archer**  
**G.M. Hickey**  
**M.S.Y. Lee**

**A ground-breaking volume of international significance.**

**An overview of Australasian vertebrates in the extinction crisis!**

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# Summary of Features

This large reference volume (Reduced A4: 275 x 210 mm, 942 pp.) provides a comprehensive overview of the knowledge of vertebrate diversity within Australasia, together with discussion of the factors that influenced the evolution and distributions of the faunas we see today. By considering the major forces shaping the extant vertebrate assemblages, using new techniques and strategies, we can formulate ideas about how to best conserve and manage these dynamic vertebrate groups as well as the ecosystem complexes on which they depend.

The 38 chapters are divided into 7 major sections. The first group of chapters covers the general topics of classification and evolution, together with geologic and climatic processes influencing environments and biogeography of parts of Australasia. Then follow 5 sections that each concentrate on a major vertebrate grouping, from primitive jawless fishes to specialized marine mammals and humans. The final section focuses on the future, describing some of the latest techniques and systems used for assessing biodiversity and assisting in conservation management.

Each chapter is fully sourced and illustrated with line diagrams, as well as other figures next to the relevant text. Attempts have been made to maintain a clear, informal style for readers without specialized knowledge and a humorous or irreverent essence when appropriate. The 136 colour plates are distributed throughout the book as close to the related chapters as possible. A general combined Index is at the back.



Over 50 leading researchers, from all parts of Australasia and elsewhere, have combined as authors and co-authors to make this a ground-breaking volume of international significance. This resource book follows in the tradition of *Vertebrate Zoogeography & Evolution in Australasia* (edited by Archer and Clayton) released in 1984. This new title is a natural development providing a balanced updated coverage of the field. It is hoped this book will: increase awareness of the unique Australasian vertebrate faunas; emphasize the importance of Australasian environments and the associated biodiversity; provide background for decisions that limit biodiversity loss in the region—against the trend in the current world-wide extinction crisis.

ISBN: 0 9757790 1 X  
0 9757790 0 1

Cost: Casebound \$AUD 230.00 (incl. GST) plus postage  
Paperback \$AUD 170.00 (incl. GST) plus postage

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# About

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- (c) may only be required in relatively small numbers.

The prime area of interest is material connected with the natural sciences or environmental issues. Aside from the *Evolution and Biogeography of Australasian Vertebrates* in production, other titles under consideration include *Freshwater Crayfishes of Australia* and *Australian Wines – Production and Industry Trends*. Manuscripts submitted are initially assessed by the editor and specialists consulted if it is considered necessary.

Options are considered before any decisions are taken on publication, but flexibility in presentation and to meet individual requirements are priorities. Although based in Sydney, where most of the printing is done, design and layout as well as typesetting is completed in the United Kingdom by an associated company.

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