While the book is well conceived and certainly well written, a number of small irritating problems stand out. The nomenclature discussions, although valuable as a whole, are very variable in detail. Some include short explanations for the etymology of the scientific names while others do not. The sections dealing with the natural history of each taxon are also variable in quality. Descriptions of the environments in which the taxa might have occurred in ancient Egypt are frequently omitted. In the discussion of the fallow deer (*Dama mesopotamica*), for example, it would have been useful to point out that the deer inhabited thickly wooded areas along the edges of the Nile Valley, thus making the early disappearance of this taxon more understandable. The layout of figures within the text is often clumsy and forces the reader to shift back and forth between pages. The worst example of this miscue is the location of the identifications of animals in Table 1, which is located at the end of the chapter some twelve pages later. The discussion of lion manes (p. 114) is also confusing. Two 1996 articles by Houlihan are cited, yet, since they lack further differentiation in the text [i.e., Houlihan (a) v. Houlihan (b)] it is difficult to tell which reference is being cited.

With the exception of these minor errors, this is an outstanding text. The volume synthesizes an impressive amount of information from at least four sometimes-disparate disciplines. What makes such a synthesis such a valuable resource is the comprehensive literature review coupled with flashes of insight. Given these criteria, this is an extremely valuable resource for anyone working with mammals in ancient Egypt. It belongs on the shelf of every archaeozoologist working in North Africa and the Middle East and most certainly on the bookshelf of every Egyptologist.

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American Bamboos. Emmet J. Judziewicz, Lynn G. Clark, Ximena Londoño, and Margaret J. Stern. 1999. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. and London. Pp. 392. $49.95 (hardcover). ISBN 1-56098-569-0

The histories of humans and the bamboos have pushed and pulled at one another for thousands of years. Bamboo tends to provoke deep-seated responses from people in North America because it is invasive, quick growing, and, perhaps above all, *eastern*. Many non-scientists are frequently stunned to learn that bamboos are even native to the western hemisphere, never mind that the number of New World bamboos rivals that of the Old. As this text is very accessible to anyone equipped with some basic understanding of the natural sciences, it will hopefully dispel some of these false impressions. More importantly, the book somehow manages to be accessible to more general audiences while being extremely detailed, insightful, and useful for the most accomplished botanist. Such a combination is rare.

A key to the American bamboos and basal grasses follows five chapters of

text. These chapters, in just 134 pages, cover bamboo anatomy, bamboo in the American landscape, the use of American bamboos by people, the techniques of growing bamboo, and recent and historical thought on the definitional characteristics of bamboo. Accompanying the chapters and scientific key are over 200 color photographs, maps, and drawings of the highest quality. Four appendices cover the themes of the geographical distribution of the bamboo genera, avian specialists of understory bamboos, bamboo common names, and commonly cultivated bamboos in the United States and Europe. A glossary, particularly useful for newcomers to dimorphic key reading, completes the text.

Bamboo anatomy can be a bewildering subject; yet, understanding the anatomy of this unique plant group is critical to understanding its evolutionary significance, taxonomy, and human use. The authors painstakingly walk the reader from node to internode, from root to culm, and from flower to seedling with exceptional grace, and they provide boldface type for important terms, detailed anatomical sketches, schematic views of habits, and even scanning electron micrographs in accompaniment. For some, the treatment of bamboo anatomy may be a bit too detailed, but those who proceed patiently through the chapter will be rewarded with a true breadth of understanding. For many, in fact, this may be the most useful and relevant of all chapters.

Chapters 2, 3, and 4 are easier reads, but no less brilliant. "Bamboos in Native Landscapes" provides extraordinary detail of the subject matter, in a way that could only come from decades of fieldwork and an incredible handle on the available literature. Although the entire text will be of use to the ethnobiologist, the third chapter on the human use of bamboo is obviously the most relevant for readers of the *Journal of Ethnobiology*. The thematic and chronological categorizing and describing of human uses of bamboo provides an excellent introduction. More detail on these topics is somewhat wanting, but, considering the overall breadth of the text, the coverage is reasonable. The discussion of the use of *Guadua angustifolia* Kunth in construction among the peoples of western Colombia and Ecuador is particularly well informed. The fourth chapter, on cultivating bamboos, is a logical development of Chapter 3 and captures the interest of an entirely new audience. Although just fifteen pages in length, the chapter does an excellent job summarizing the methods of cultivation. The authors' treatment of evolution, cladistics, and bamboo phylogeny is superb and insightful and summarizes and extrapolates on the findings of many authors; notable among these is Lynn Clark.

The 200-page key is in some ways the climax of the text, where the first four chapters provide the tools and background for the key to be useful and meaningful. Each genus is treated with great detail, plus a distribution map and a color photo of a representative species. One will quickly notice that Judziewicz, Clark, Londoño, and Stern frequently appear as plant authors, which reflects their substantive contribution to the study of bamboo and the reliability of this volume.

American Bamboos is a remarkable achievement. Although some themes could and perhaps will be treated as texts themselves, the book will certainly inspire many future bamboo enthusiasts as it has done with this reviewer. The book belongs in the personal library of every ethnobotanist or ethnobiologist, novice or expert bamboo gardener, landscape restorationist, and evolutionary biologist. In the acknowledgments, the authors express their wish to have followed in the

footsteps of the great American bamboo experts—the Floyd McClures, Cleo Calderóns, and Thomas Soderstroms of the world—and without a doubt they have done so.

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A Plague of Rats and Rubbervines: The Growing Threat of Species Invasions. Yvonne Baskin. 2002. Island Press, Washington. Pp. vii + 377; photographs, appendices, notes, index. $25.00 (hardcover). ISBN 1-55963-876-1

Non-indigenous species can cause great economic damage, irreversible ecological changes, and significant public health impacts. Executive Order 13112 of 1999, which established the National Invasive Species Council, has placed invasive species issues firmly on the United States' domestic policy agenda. In addition, invasive species have been elevated to the international trade and environmental policy agendas through a variety of international agreements, particularly the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS). The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (U.S.A.) (2002) has recently published a volume on invasions of non-indigenous plants and plant pests. International non-governmental scientific organizations like the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) have also made invasive species a priority. Baskin's book had its origins in the desire of SCOPE's Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) to produce a volume that could communicate these issues to the broadest possible audience.

The aim of the book, then, is to provide a fresh, comprehensive, and accessible view of the problems of invasive species. Specifically, Baskin emphasizes the global scope of invasive species problems—especially in relation to global trade—and devotes considerable space to the search for creative means of interdiction and control of non-indigenous species. The book is intended for a very broad, non-specialist audience.

The book's coverage is quite comprehensive, including chapters on the history of invasive species worldwide, agricultural pests, impacts of invasive species on biodiversity and the environment, and global trade. For a general audience, Chapter 6 is a particularly good review of recent research on predicting invasiveness from species and habitat traits. There are also chapters on quarantine and interdiction in relation to trade, and case studies of control efforts in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and the Galápagos Islands. The book closes with a sound set of policy and action recommendations.

Overall, the book achieves its desired aim, though whether it inspires the action it promotes will remain to be seen. Certainly the book is well written and engaging, and is very appropriate for its intended audience. Baskin's liberal use of anecdotes and quotes from interviews enhances the book's appeal to a general audience. As far as teaching is concerned, the whole book might be usable for an