Ontogeny, functional ecology, and evolution of bats

The study of animal development has deep historical roots in codifying the field of evolutionary biology. In the 1940s, evolutionary theory became engulfed by analyses of microevolutionary genetics and the study of development became focused on mechanisms, forsaking the evolutionary implications of ontogeny. Recently, ontogeny has resurfaced as a significant component of evolutionary change and also of population and community dynamics.

*Ontogeny, Functional Ecology, and Evolution of Bats* is a unique reference work by bat biologists who emphasize the importance of understanding ontogeny in analyses of evolution and ecology. In addition, the developmental underpinnings of specialized morphology, physiology, and behavior are elucidated, and the strong influence of ecology on the ontological niche of juvenile bats is illustrated. This book is an essential reference, not only for bat biologists, but for anyone working in the fields of ecology, developmental biology, evolution, behavior and systematics.

**Rick A. Adams** is an Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. He is Founder and President of the Colorado Bat Society, a nonprofit conservation foundation. His research focuses on postcranial skeletogenesis in bats, the ontogeny of flight and niche space in juvenile bats, temporal spacing at waterholes and roost site affiliations of Colorado bat species, and bat biodiversity in Montserrat and Antigua in the Caribbean as affected by natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions and hurricanes.

**Scott C. Pedersen** is an Assistant Professor at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. He is a vertebrate morphologist with interests in the evolution of the skull as an acoustical horn in bats from a developmental perspective. He has also been studying the biodiversity and biogeography of the bat fauna of the Lesser Antilles. Recently, Dr Adams has made valuable contributions to Dr Pedersen’s ongoing, long-term study of the bats of Antigua and Montserrat.
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Edited by
RICK A. ADAMS and SCOTT C. PEDERSEN
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