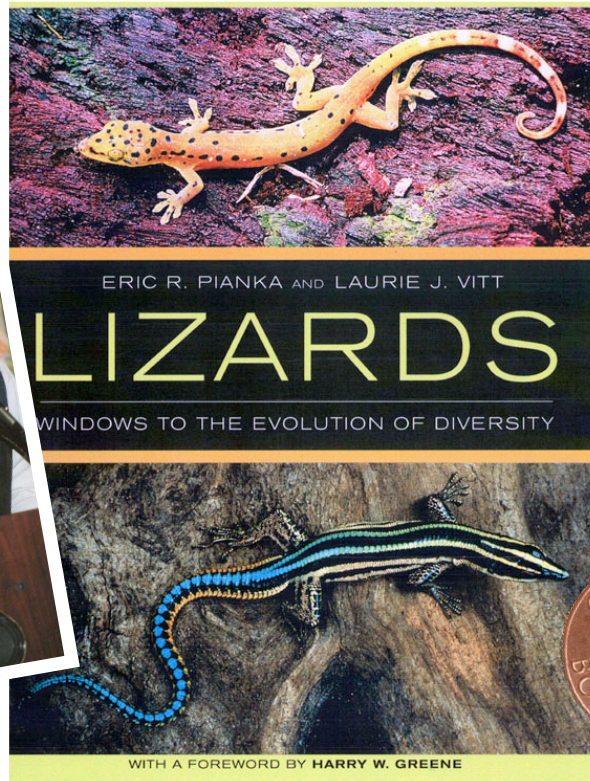


Eric R. Pianka



Laurie J. Vitt



Oklahoma Book Award

Lizards, Windows to the Evolution of Diversity

March 14, 2004

Literary Book Award

Dr. Eric R. Pianka

University of Texas at Austin,

Dr. Eric R. Pianka was presented with the prestigious Oklahoma Book Award for “Lizards, Windows to the Evolution of Diversity”, a comprehensive introduction to the diversity of lizards. co-authored by Dr. Pianka and Laurie J. Vitt. They have combined forces to provide a scholarly yet historical and personal overview. Vitt has extensive experience in South America and tropical forests, as well as southwestern US deserts, whereas Pianka has specialized in deserts of Australia, southern Africa and North America. Together Pianka and Vitt form an unbeatable team of lizard experts.



Review by William E. Cooper

Indiana University-Purdue University

“This book is the first to provide a comprehensive introduction to the diversities and their major adaptive features, and an unprecedented global view of trends that have shaped lizard diversity and geographical distributions. The mastery of the material are truly impressive. . . The authors discuss the latest findings in readily accessible terms and provide sweeping new hypotheses about diversity that will generate much discussion and research among lizard specialists, ecologists, and evolutionary biologists. This book should reach a wide audience and undoubtedly stimulate the interest of future biologists. I wish I had had it when I was a teenager!”

Review by Davi B. Wake

University of California, Berkeley

“It was a treat to read this book. Together Pianka and Vitt form an unbeatable team of lizard experts. Vitt has extensive experience in South America and tropical forests, as well as southwestern US deserts, whereas Pianka has specialized in deserts of Australia, southern Africa and North America. They have spent a lot of time in the field studying lizards and this is apparent in the text. I especially enjoyed the personal vignettes, which add to the liveliness of the book. This is a wonderful synthesis and a great addition to the herpetological literature.”

Review by Raymond B. Huey

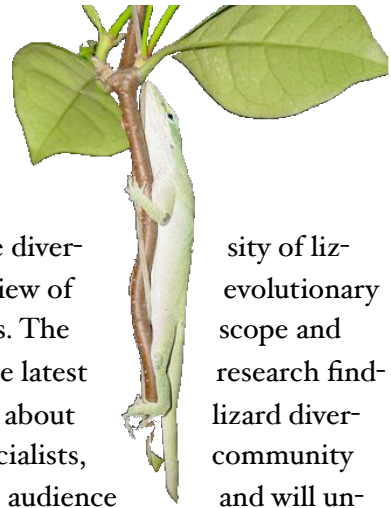
University of Washington

“No one knows lizards better than Pianka and Vitt. These master naturalists and master ecologists have combined forces to provide a scholarly - yet accessible and personal -- overview on the biology of a fascinating group of organisms. If you like lizards, you must read this book. If you don't like lizards, but still have an open mind, you really should read this book. If you're not sure whether you like lizards, you definitely should read this book.”

Review by Aaron M. Bauer

Villanova University

“This book provides an excellent overview of the staggering diversity of lizards and highlights not only the intrinsically fascinating traits of these reptiles, but also their appropriateness as models for evolutionary and ecological studies. The authors' thorough treatment of lizard biology is engagingly presented and is enhanced by personal insights derived from decades of field work in the deserts and rain forests of the world.”



sity of lizard evolutionary scope and research findings on lizard diversity and will undoubtedly un-