It is always a race against time while teaching statistics courses (at the undergraduate and graduate levels) to ecologists. Indeed, there is never enough time to cover the wide range of parametric and non-parametric statistics. This is unfortunate as most biologists and ecologists in their research are mostly using the non-parametric tests and randomization tests, while they would like to use Bayesian statistics if they knew how.

Why are parametric statistics not the most appropriate methods for the majority of ecological data analyses? The reasons why parametric statistics are often not suitable for ecological data are numerous. First, the lack of conformity of the data to analytically known distributions can be attributed in part to the sampling or experimental designs. For instance, the sample size may be too small, such that the sampling distribution does not fit any known analytical distribution. Another common situation when parametric statistics cannot be used is when ecological data are autocorrelated either in time, space, or both, therefore violating the assumption of residual independence required to use parametric statistics. Ironically, while ecologists' statistical training is mainly to present these methods) was a challenge by itself. The authors aimed to show the breadth of methods rather than to give an in-depth explanation for each one.

In short, only positive superlatives come to mind to describe the merit of this book. Its obvious strength is that it was written by ecologists for ecologists. From now on, I will use this textbook to teach statistics to undergraduate students and I will suggest it to graduate students and researchers who need to refresh their statistical knowledge.

Marie-Josée Fortin
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5S 3G5, CANADA
E-MAIL: MFORTIN@ZOOL.UTORONTO.CA


Darwin's Fishes: An Encyclopedia of Ichthyology, Ecology, and Evolution, by Daniel Pauly, is a unique and insightful analysis of Charles Darwin's contributions to ichthyology and to evolutionary biology in general. The book is encyclopedic in format. Most of the text consists of 478 alphabetized entries on topics relating to fishes, but many entries covering broader aspects of ecology and evolution are included as well. After the alphabetized entries, nearly 1,000 annotated references provide Darwin's comments on other published works, helping the reader create an appropriate context in which to view Darwin's writings. Readers can progress through the text from A-Z or may choose instead to jump from entry to entry based on the extensive cross-referencing that occurs. What emerges from either approach is an appreciation for Pauly's engaging humor, his thorough knowledge of the topic at hand, and his creativity in assembling such a volume.

Reading this book is an adventure. A typical entry may list where a species was first collected and catalogued by Darwin, and Darwin's original description may be given. Where the reader will be taken next...