

BOOK REVIEW

DICKS L.V., SHOWLER D.A. & SUTHERLAND W.J.: BEE CONSERVATION. Evidence for the effects of interventions. Synopses of Conservation Evidence, Vol. 1. Pelagic Publishing Ltd, Exeter, 2010, 146 pp. Paperback: ISBN 978-1-907807-00-8. Price GBP 19.99/USD 29.99. Hardback: ISBN 2-88414-021-2. Price GBP 65.99/USD 100.00.

This book deals with the conservation of bees (Hymenoptera: Apiformes) and comments on the scientific evidence for its effectiveness. The book is intended for those people who have to make decisions about how best to support or conserve biodiversity. The authors present synopses of realistic attempts to conserve a species group or habitat, regardless of how much evidence there is for their effectiveness and describe each piece of evidence, including methods, as clearly as possible, so that readers can assess the quality of the evidence. The authors do not regard synopses that attempt to weight or prioritise interventions according to their importance or their effectiveness or weight or numerically evaluate the results based on their quality as evidence of the effectiveness of conservation. This review supports erudite decision-making as not only a good means of conserving bees. The literature is reviewed and the criteria for including studies in the Conservation Evidence database were: (a) there must have been an intervention that conservationists would do and (b) its effects must have been monitored quantitatively. In total, 168 studies are included in this synopsis.

The book is divided into twelve chapters the titles of eight of which include the term threat. These threats are defined as, for example: pollution, land use change to agriculture, residential and commercial development, invasive non-native species etc. The last three chapters are on artificial nest sites for bees, cap-

tive rearing of wild bees including bumble bees (ex-situ conservation) and education and awareness-raising. This synopsis indicates that conservation is faced with many threats. A lot of evidence is presented in this book, but what is also important and appreciated is that the authors very often stress the absence of evidence or knowledge. This information has the same importance as confirmation that a factor has an effect.

Research on this topic is in its initial stages and this book is needed "as salt" for stimulating further studies. The number of people with an interest in this topic has increased over the last two decades, which is a good trend. This book on Bee conservation includes a broad spectrum of conservation problems and their resolution, which is relevant not only for bee conservation. Among other factors the conservation of bees requires that the landscape has a mosaic structure. For example, bio-corridors are essential for conservation. As a teacher I can confirm that students are very interested in this topic. However, there is little literature on this aspect of conservation. Although this book mainly deals with the science it is also suitable for those involved in implementing conservation proposals.

I congratulate the authors on producing such a perfect and informative study and recommend this book to everybody who is interested in pollinator ecology and looking for information on decision-making in the conservation of biodiversity. This book should be present in every biological library, particularly in schools, for use by beginners in the study of bee ecology. I hope there will be many more books on this topic in the future.

The books can be ordered at the following address: Pelagic Publishing Ltd, PO Box 725, Exeter, EX1 9QU, United Kingdom.

A. Přidal