



Robert McCleery, Ara Monadjem, L. Mike Conner, James D. Austin, and Peter J. Taylor: Methods for ecological research on terrestrial small mammals

John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA, 2022, 368 pp. US\$59.95 (hardcover and e-book), ISBN 978-1-4214-4211-2

Nick Littlewood¹

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With ubiquity in terrestrial environments, small mammals have long held appeal as subjects of ecological research. Their fast population turnover drives rapid responses to environmental change and their relative ease of capture (at least compared to most other mammals) adds further to their appeal. Perhaps because of these reasons and the relatively low cost of making a start in small mammal studies, different researchers and teams have adapted a dazzlingly wide variety of ingenious methods to address often fundamentally similar aims. With 15 chapters on topics ranging from trapping and marking through to behavioural and genetic studies, this book acts as a sort of super literature review of approaches to small mammal study. It is not so much an instruction manual as a collation and appraisal of different approaches. These aid the small-mammal worker in considering a wider range of techniques than they might previously have been unaware of. Extensive referencing provides multiple routes into the published literature for studies published up to and including 2020. Common to much of scientific publishing, there is an almost complete reliance on English language reference material, so one can only wonder at what

additional material may have been published in the non-English language scientific literature. The book will most likely appeal to students and researchers embarking on their first small mammal research programme as an invaluable primer on a vast range of approaches. Experienced small mammal workers, whose ways of working and associated habits are well-engrained, may also benefit from perusing this title for ideas for adapting and developing their approaches. Inevitably, this book will gradually age. For example, less than a page is devoted to studying small mammals using acoustic monitoring. With considerable current interest in using ultrasonic calls for species identification and monitoring, this is surely an area that will warrant greater coverage in any future edition. There are also areas where methods developed many decades ago still hold considerable merit and so, quite rightly, the material featured ranges widely in antiquity. The text is accessible in style and is punctuated with black and white figures throughout.

✉ Nick Littlewood
nick.littlewood@sruc.ac.uk

¹ SRUC Aberdeen, Ferguson Building, Craibstone Estate,
Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9YA, UK