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**1186. Gulf of Mexico: Origin, Waters, and Biota. Volume 1, Biodiversity.** Darryl L. Felder and David K. Camp, eds. College Station, Tex., Texas A&M University Press, 2009. 1393p. illus. index. \$95.00. ISBN 1-60344-094-1. ISBN 13: 978-1-60344-094-3.

*Gulf of Mexico: Origin, Waters, and Biota* is a landmark, multivolume treatise on the geology, physical oceanography, biota, anthropogenic issues, ecosystem-based management, and socioeconomics of this region. Involving over 200 authors, this series updates and expands upon the classic reference work entitled the *Gulf of Mexico—Its Origin, Waters, and Marine Life, Fishery Bulletin 89, Fishery Bulletin of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Volume 55* (1954). Volume 1, *Biodiversity*, focuses on establishing an updated, all-taxa inventory for marine and tidal wetland species in this region. Except for a closing chapter dealing with an overview of biogeography, the chapters address groups of species, usually at the order, class, or phylum level. Information for individual species is limited to one or two lines in a checklist table. The checklist table is preceded by a short introduction that briefly defines the group under treatment, provides a tabular overview of the data on the group's composition in the Gulf of Mexico, reviews the overall history of major works involving the group in this region, explains any departures from the protocol of other chapters, and defines abbreviations and other conventions used in the checklist. The checklists themselves consist of the bulk of the content, with abbreviations used to denote habitat, depth, overall geographic range, Gulf of Mexico range, and references. Even though the authors limited references to key sources, some chapters contain well over 100 sources. A nice addition is 32 pages of color plates identifying particular species. At the end there is a list of over 140 contributors, including contact information. At close to 1,400 pages, this book and the accompanying volumes, will serve as standard reference works for the region. Due to its emphasis on checklists, with the main narrative at the order, class, or phylum level, it is unlikely to appeal to the general public. This work is recommended for academic libraries with collections emphasizing the Gulf of Mexico.—**Kevin McDonough**