

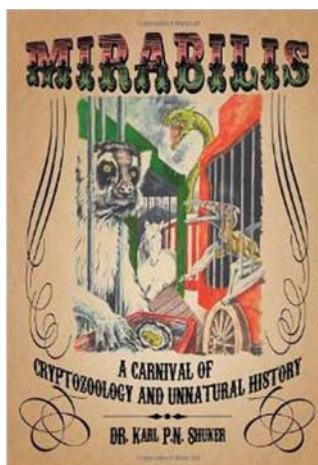
FURTHER BOOK OF NOTE

Mirabilis—A Carnival of Cryptozoology and Unnatural History
by Karl P. N. Shuker. San Antonio, Texas, and Charlottesville, Virginia:
Anomalist Books, 2013. 185 pp. \$15.95 (paperback), \$9.95 (Kindle).
ISBN 978-1938398056.

Karl Shuker is a highly reliable guide to all things cryptozoological, as well as a highly prolific author (of more than 20 books!) and blogger about all manner of anomalies (The Eclectarium of Doctor Shuker, <http://www.eclectariumshuker.blogspot.com/>), cryptozoology in particular (ShukerNature, <http://karlshuker.blogspot.com>). *Mirabilis* illustrates Shuker's talent for readable discussion and the analysis of recondite material unlikely to be familiar even to dedicated anomalists and cryptozoologists.

I learned quite a bit from this volume: that the size of insects is limited physiologically by their need for oxygen (in the absence of a cardiovascular system), that things that look like spiders (solifugids) may not be spiders, and much else. Chapter headings include such tantalizing things as *Megalopedus*, *Sukotyro*, and *Tygomelia*. Several pieces illustrate all-too-common newspaper hoaxes, prevalent particularly in the 19th century. A timely warning about the digital age is given in connection with alleged sightings of huge spiders. The perpetual enigma of entombed life is tackled in Chapter 9, "Toads in rocks . . ."

This is a perfect book to have lying around to dip into whenever you feel the need to learn of something different, intriguing, informative, or instructive.



HENRY H. BAUER

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry & Science Studies, Dean Emeritus of Arts & Sciences
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
hhbauer@vt.edu, www.henryhbauer.homestead.com