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Editors' Note to *Biological Investigations in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas.*


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Editors' Note

The Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which is located in Trans-Pecos Texas between Carlsbad, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, is one of the newest national parks being formed by the Congress in 1967. The Guadalupe Mountains and the associated Chihuahuan Desert included in the park represent a unique biological area in which a fragile biological equilibrium exists between the fauna and flora of the Chihuahuan Desert of the lowlands and the Rocky Mountains of the high elevations. The preservation of this area will depend upon sound management decisions.

This volume is the result of a symposium held at The Museum of Texas Tech University on 4 and 5 April 1975. The impetus for this symposium was furnished by our participation in a research project in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. This work was funded by the Southwest Region of the National Park Service through Texas Tech University and administered by Mr. Roland H. Wauer. It became apparent to us that considerable scientific research was being conducted in the Park both by the staff of Texas Tech University and at other institutions. However, we believed that only limited communication was occurring between these scientists. We hope that the symposium and this volume will significantly enhance this scientific communication and will provide much of the baseline data necessary for the development of a master plan by the National Park Service for the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. Because the Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico, is geographically and physiographically closely related to the Guadalupe Mountains, we have included several studies that recently have been conducted there.

The research resulting in this symposium would not have been possible without the cooperation of the National Park Service. Mr. Roland H. Wauer, Regional Chief Scientist, Southwest Region, has been instrumental in initiating many of these research projects, especially those being conducted by personnel of Texas Tech University. Special thanks are due the personnel of the Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks, especially Donald A. Dayton, Superintendent; John Chapman, Area Manager; Gary M. Ahlstrand, Research Ecologist; Philip F. Van Cleave, Staff Interpretative and Environmental Services Specialist; and Roger Reisch, Park Ranger.

The symposium at Texas Tech University was sponsored by The Museum, the Graduate School, and the International Center for Arid and Semi-arid Lands Studies. We wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Craig C. Black, Dean J. Knox Jones, Jr., and Dr. Frank B. Conselman, respectively, of these organizations. The editors wish to extend their personal thanks to Dr. Craig C. Black, not only for his support of the symposium, but also for his support of our activities throughout our work in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. We also gratefully acknowledge the editorial assistance and attention to detail of R. Laurie Hendricksen. Stephen L. Williams aided with some of the illustrative material. Many of the proper names used for specific localities are defined in the paper on mammals, whereas others may be found on the U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map for Guadalupe Peak, Texas (1:62,500, 1933).

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