

MODERN MEGAPODE RESEARCH A POST-FRITH REVIEW

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Modern studies on the megapodes commenced with H. J. Frith's studies on the Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* during the 1950's. Since this time much debate has centred on the evolution of the family, especially on taxonomic relationships and routes of dispersion. More recently, major advances in the understanding of megapode incubation have been made, especially the functioning of mounds, and the associated adaptations of eggs and chicks. Detailed studies of sexual interactions have revealed numerous types of mating systems within the group, leading to speculations as to their evolution. Many species are currently threatened, and many areas of ecology and behaviour remain to be studied.