INTRODUCTION

The *body weight* database contains two additional files. The first is an ‘Excel’ file, which provides body weight data for 1,410 species of *adult* mammals. The second file provides a list of the eighteen references from which the given body weight data were taken (see General Introduction above, Table 1, first row, column four). The primary purpose of the body weight table was to *screen* the empirical data employed in Part II (see also screening criteria given in Appendix 2). A second significant use of the body weight table was to study the distribution of body weights in adult mammals (see especially Chapters 4 and 7).

The Excel data file consists of eight columns and 1,410 records (rows). The first column identifies each record in the table by a consecutive number (from 1 to 1,410). The second column identifies each species by a *unique* number (see General Introduction above). The third column identifies each species by its scientific *binomial name*. The fourth and fifth columns specify the *taxonomic order* to which each species belongs as well as the *common name* for each species, where available. The sixth column (GENmin) gives a *minimal body weight* (in grams) for each species, where available. The seventh column (GENmax) gives the maximal body weight for each species, where available. Finally, the eighth column reports the *given* mean body weights, as distinct from mean body weights that could be *calculated* from columns six and seven. Note that there are many fewer values of mean body weight than there are for either minimal or maximal body weights

In order to simplify this numerical dataset for body weights, the body weight data specifically concerned with adult *male* and *female* mammals were omitted (see Chapter 7, Table 7.3).