The following review appeared in the October 2012 issue of CHOICE:

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Tyler's Ciferae derives its title from Ferae ("wild animals"), expanded to Ciferae, ciphers, because animals often serve as ciphers, placeholders, in philosophy. Use of animals is usually an ill-fitted analogy, as philosophy is not sure how to deal with something so like humans yet presumably so beneath humans. They become "philosophical beasts of burden." Tyler (Oxford Brookes Univ., UK) cites Pythagoras's assertion that "man is the measure of all things" as setting humanity on the path of an anthropocentric worldview, including human knowledge itself. He uncovers the underlying speciesism hidden in the philosophies of Heidegger, Moore, and Kant. In contrast, he offers Derrida's insight that the word "animal" is used to describe billions of distinct and varied species, grouped together as homogeneously opposite from "human." Tyler takes up Derrida's call of "death to the animal!" Employing a playful approach, he uses finger drawings to introduce his five chapters, along with whimsical drawings of animals throughout. Sometimes going too deeply into unnecessary tangents, Tyler nevertheless delivers tremendous insight into philosophy's indefensible anthropocentrism, concluding that pragmatic knowledge (and its refusal of a "God's eye view") is most promising. He invites humans to reconsider how to delineate "we." Summing Up:
Recommended. Upper-level undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers/faculty.--M. A. Betz, Rutgers University, Camden