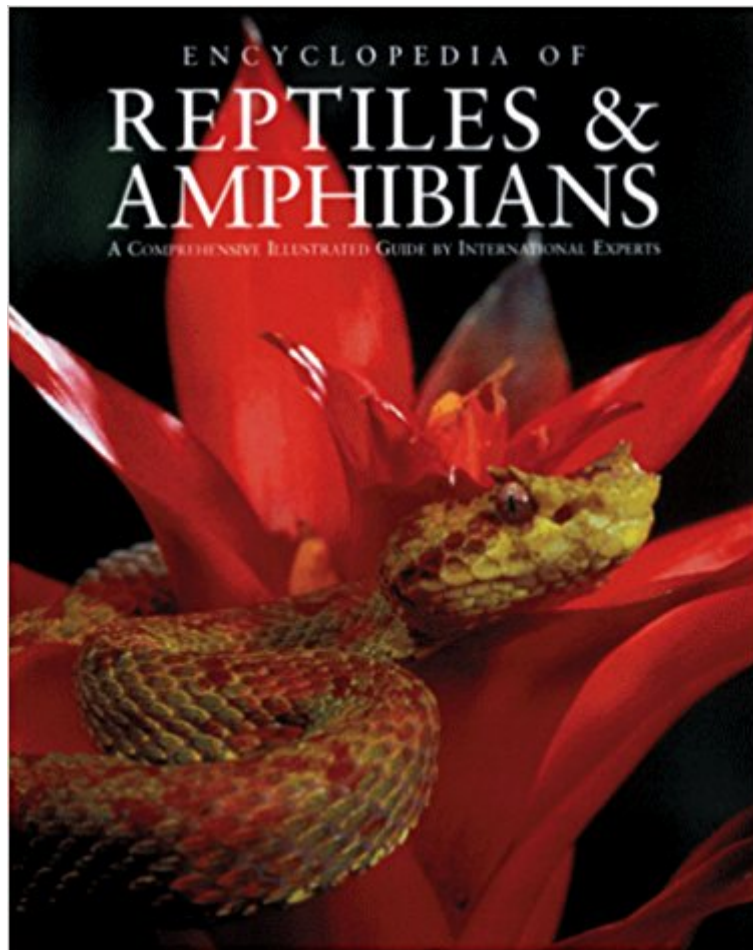


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Encyclopedia Of Reptiles And Amphibians, Second Edition (Natural World)



Synopsis

Some 360 million years ago the ancestors of today's reptiles and amphibians emerged from the sea to take on the challenge of land. This successful venture climaxed in a spectacular 140-million-year domination of the Earth by the dinosaurs. Today there are more than 11,000 species of reptiles and amphibians living in all parts of the world. Their behavior and physiology are as complex as those of birds and mammals, and they are equally well-adapted to the astonishingly varied environments they inhabit. Only through a greater understanding of the fragile balance that exists between the species and their habitats will it be possible for us to ensure their survival. This Second Edition of *Reptiles and Amphibians* is a magnificently illustrated book, with highly comprehensive and authoritative text, written by the world's leading herpetologists. The book has more than 200 superb color photographs and 100 original paintings, maps, and diagrams. It is an up-to-date and definitive volume that chronicles the life-histories of some of nature's most secretive yet remarkable creatures. Key Features* Magnificently illustrated in full color* Includes hundreds of color photographs and meticulously researched diagrams and maps* Written by an international team of world recognized authorities

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Encyclopedia of Reptiles and Amphibians, Second Edition gave excellent synopsis on many herpetofauna ranging from the common green tree frog, to the rare New Caledonian geckos. This

encyclopedia will be enjoyed by anyone who has a genuine interest in reptiles and amphibians.

I am not trained in zoology and approach this subject as a complete amateur and a beginner amateur at that. This book is lavishly illustrated with expert and precise drawings as well as breathtaking photography that is more than adequate in conveying the beauty and complexity of the book's subject matter. The "Key Facts" corner of every chapter gives useful basic information, e.g. the biggest and smallest of snakes, lizards or whatever - and how many are endangered. One cutaway view of a rattlesnake's rattle is particularly fascinating, though it only leaves me asking for more internal anatomical views. While the writing is generally good, it sometimes lapses into a specialist's jargon that leaves us amateurs scratching our heads. Even when words like "lamellae" and "setae" are explained, might it just suffice to call them "overlapping plates" and "projections" respectively when discussing how geckos can "stroll on the ceiling"? I found myself looking back to check on what term meant what. Also, rather than a photograph, a drawing of the gecko foot might be more revealing - and there the scientific terms could be introduced. But this is a minor complaint. I have no regrets whatsoever about purchasing this book. It is a brilliant and spectacular tribute to the animal world's great wonders.

I am just beginning my journey through the jungle of this coffee table-sized volume, but am already armed for any questions on reptiles and amphibians that Jeopardy could ever throw my way. I bought this book (used) as a research tool for a children's story I am writing, and it has not disappointed. After I have gleaned all the wisdom from it that I can, I will donate it to my local library to keep the knowledge spreading. R.R. Harris, author of *Double Take*, *An Island Travel Mystery* of *Lively Romance* and *Deadly Betrayal*, available on .

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