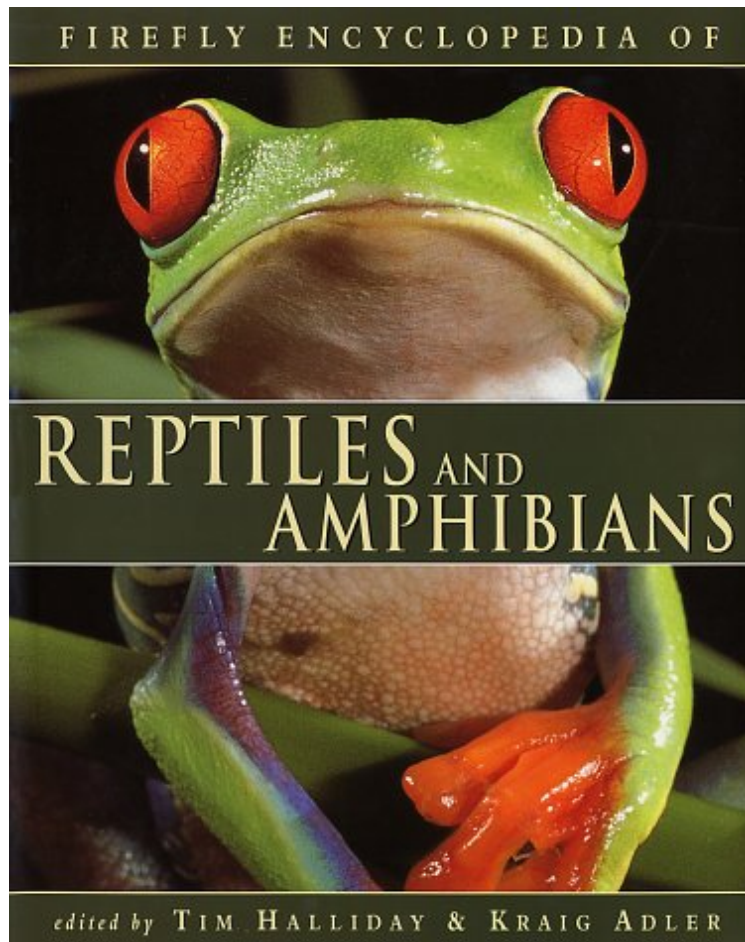


Firefly Encyclopedia of Reptiles and Amphibians

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Combining authoritative, easy-to-read essays with exciting illustrations and color photographs, this comprehensive encyclopedia covers all the diverse families of reptiles and amphibians, from chameleons to turtles to tree frogs. Lively, in-depth articles are illustrated with accurate artworks and color photographs and each species listing has a

Factfile of the essential data: Scientific Order and population Distribution (with a color-coded map) and Habitat Size and Color Reproduction and Life Cycle Longevity Conservation Status Scientists, zoologists and expert researchers have contributed specially commissioned articles. These specialists, all experts in their fields, are actively involved in conducting frontline scientific or behavioral research. The inclusion of their latest findings and interpretations sets this title apart.

From Booklist With lush color photographs and lavishly detailed illustrations, this encyclopedia presents a striking abundance of information at a glance. Also noteworthy is the scholarly text, a comprehensive overview of these frequently studied phyla. A major article introduces the main classes: amphibians and reptiles. Articles pertaining to specific species follow. Entries vary in length, depending upon the complexity of the species. All articles--penned by authorities in the field of biological study--provide current scientific information and research findings relating to physiology and to behavior. Several valuable features are standard in each article. Most significant are the "Factfiles," which provide a quick summary of valuable statistics, including the order, class, physical features, life cycles, population, habitat, color, reproduction habits, and longevity of the species. Conservation status, a key consideration for many researchers, is also noted, using IUCN (World Conservation Union) categories as a descriptor. Boxed "Special Feature" (for example, "Decoding the Frog Chorus") and "Photo Story" (such as "Harvesting Snake Venom") articles supplement the erudite text with fascinating sidelights concerning behavior, morphology, and economic and medical importance, among other topics. Although a glossary of biological terms are included, sidebars defining these terms on the pages on which they appear might have been a better placement because most students will not turn to the ends of the volume. A bibliography of sources and an index completes the book. One thinks short and concise when perusing an encyclopedia. Such is not the case with this resource, which is strongly recommended for high-school, public, and academic libraries. For students, Marshall Cavendish's multivolume Reptiles and Amphibians [RBB F 15 03] offer less scholarly but equally attractive coverage. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Illustrations are generous and of excellent quality ... extremely detailed presentation. (Gillian Richardson Canadian Materials) A helpful feature in this book is the use of excellent sidebars ... photographs (all in color) are simply excellent ... highly recommended. (Johnson Thane Library News for Zoos and Aquariums) Visually stunning ... over 300 flawless color photographs ... highly recommended. (E. Streams, Vol. 6, No. 4) A great classroom reference ... will wind up on a teacher's wish list because it is attractive and scientific. (Rachel Forman Science Teacher) Most highly recommended, this book provides a wealth of information to anyone interested in, or just vaguely curious about, amphibians and reptiles. (Michal Kubik Wildlife Activist) A superbly attractive, authoritative, and highly informative sourcebook on amphibians and reptiles... Discussions throughout are supported by superb color photographs and vividly rendered artwork. Technical terminology is minimal and the text can be easily comprehended by anyone with a high school education. (Edmund Keiser Jr. American Reference Books Annual, Volume 35) Extremely useful both in terms of its relative completeness and its up-to-date facts... this volume should be in the library of any nature lover. (Neil B. Ford and David F. Ford Quarterly of Biology) Topical arrangement and captivating photos assure that a quick look-up will take longer than expected ... this book is plenty fine. (T.R. Faust Choice) These beautifully illustrated encyclopedias not only detail individual species, but also provide a wealth of information about how these creatures interact with one another and people. (Science News 2002-11-23) A striking abundance of information at a glance ... strongly recommended for high-school, public and academic libraries. (Booklist 2003-04-15) Dramatically photographed and with a surprisingly informative text. (Globe and Mail 2002-11-23) I strongly recommend [this book for]... anyone seriously interested in amphibians and reptiles. It is a fine reference source and its visual images are aesthetic delights that will be returned to many times. (Jay M. Savage Herpetological) Clearly written and wonderfully illustrated... a highly readable and thoroughly fascinating introduction to the biology, diversity, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. (David Seburn Canadian Field Naturalist) About the Author Tim Halliday is Professor of Biology at the Open University, England, where he teaches animal behavior and evolutionary biology, and researches the mating dynamics of newts, frogs and toads. He has written or edited several books and numerous scientific papers about amphibian sexual behavior. In the last ten years, he has concentrated on global declines among amphibian populations. He is the International Director of the IUCN/SSC Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force. Dr. Kraig Adler is Professor of Biology at Cornell University. His research includes animal orientation and navigation, and the systematics, ecology and evolution of amphibians and reptiles which he has studied in the field around the world. Dr. Adler's research is widely published and he has written or edited eight books, including co-authoring Herpetology of China (1993) and Captive Management and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles (1994). He served as President of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles and was elected the first Secretary-General of the World Congress of Herpetology.