

LITERATURE

This column will give information about new literature, publications, books, etc. Tips concerning new literature are welcome, and should be sent to: Jan Cor Jacobs, Tesselschadestraat 6, 3521 XV Utrecht, The Netherlands.

BOOKREVIEW

by

Anton van Woerkom

Handbook on the maintenance of reptiles in captivity by Kenneth R.G. Welch. Robert E. Krieger Publ. Comp. Inc., Krieger Drive, Malabar, FL 32950, U.S.A. 1987. Pp. i-v, 1-156. ISBN 0-89874-830-5. Price: US \$ 17.50 (clothbound).

This book is composed of four parts:

Part 1 deals with all aspects of the terrarium keeping, from considerations of how to house a reptile to feeding problems and reproduction.

The supplementary notes in Part 2 consist of record keeping, maintenance of mealworms, fruit flies and crickets, simple notes on health and illness, and some notes on desert reptiles.

*Within Part 3 specific notes on the maintenance of several species are given (snakes: *Eryx* sp, *Boiga dendrophila*, *Coluber constrictor*, *Drymarchon corais erebennus*, *Spilotes pullatus*, and *Trimeresurus albolabris*).*

Part 4 gives a species reference list.

The book is finished with some appendices:

Appendix 1: Venomous colubrids;

Appendix 2: A table with dates on incubation of reptile eggs;

Appendix 3: Journals and Herpetological Societies of the world.

The bibliography of the book runs to 47 pages.

The aim of the author is to give the impetus for a more or less complete Handbook for the terrarium keeper. He hopes to reach this by the

future inclusion of comments and ideas from the readers in future editions.

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The Adder by Peter Stafford. Shire Natural History series No. 18. Shire Publications Ltd., Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP17 9AJ, United Kingdom. 1987. Pp. 1-24. ISBN 0-85263-879-5. Price: £ 1.25.

*This little book, part of the "Shire Natural History" series, provides an excellent description of the biology and life history of the Adder (*Vipera berus*).*

In the introduction the systematic place of the Adder within the suborder Serpentes is explained, followed by sections on the anatomy and senses. Hereafter the author describes the natural history of the Adder, covering many different aspects, such as behaviour, reproduction, feeding, distribution, habitat, diseases and enemies. Separate chapters describe "Adders in folklore" and "Effects and treatment of adder bite".

Of the 19 plates in this booklet 12 are in colour. It is a pity that I have to say that the quality of the (sometimes spectacular) colour photographs is bad: most of them are "misty" (at least in my book).

I think that this booklet is primarily published for the interested layman, but the text is written in an enjoyable and easy to read manner and I feel that the experienced snake authority will also gain much pleasure from reading the booklet.