

BOOKREVIEW

The snakes of Thailand and their husbandry; by M.J. Cox, 1991. 564 Pages. Published by Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. Price: US \$ 69.50.

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The main source of foreign livestock for the reptile keeper for many years has been Thailand, and despite this the available literature has been wanting for as long. The only serious treatment of the snakes of Thailand that has been readily available has been Taylor (1965: Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull., Vol. 45), here at last in illustrated book form is the Snakes of Thailand with the bonus of details of their husbandry. The book starts with general comments on the geography of Thailand, husbandry in general and medical aspects of husbandry. The bulk of the book is a list of the snakes of Thailand with description, distribution and specific notes on their care in captivity. The book finishes with ten appendices, seven of which present useful climatic data for the regions of Thailand.

The book is supplemented with 164 plates, 36 figures, nine tables and one map. The book is easy to read and information can be quickly found, plus, three points jump out at me be mentioned. One, I think the computer drawn figures of head scales do not work and should be omitted from all future publications unless the method of preparation is changed dramatically; two, the layout and presentation of the photos let the book down somewhat. Too many are upside down, the corners are cut out to allow the photographers name, whereas it is more pleasing to the eye (at least mine that is) if the photos are left square/straight sided with the photographers name being a discreet addition. Finally with such a large number of photos of so many species the importation of Thai species will include and encourage the keeping of a broader selection of the varied fauna thus reducing the strain on the few species dealers insist we keep. Buy a copy, the basic information to keep a snake properly is within these covers to start you on the right path.