

Biology, Husbandry, and Medicine of the Green

Iguana, Elliott R. Jacobson, editor. 2003. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. xiii + 188 pp. pls., hardcover. US \$ 50.00. ISBN 1-57524-065-3

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Few lizard species are as easily recognized by the general public as the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*). Iguanas have been exploited as a food source in Latin America for centuries and by the international pet trade for many decades. Due to their popularity as pets, iguanas have been the subject of a variety of care manuals, hobbyist magazine articles and web sites during recent years. The information presented in these sources, especially related to diet, housing and disease prevention, is often contradictory and without verification. This book represents an outstanding effort to address these topics in an intelligent, well documented manner.

Elliott Jacobson, the book's editor, is a well known and highly respected herpetological veterinary pathologist and clinician. He has assembled a group of outstanding contributors including animal nutritionists, herpetologists, physiologists, veterinarians and zoo personnel, to present detailed and well referenced discussions of wild iguana biology, behavior, diet, reproduction, and ecology, and captive nutrition, husbandry, medicine and surgery.

Chapter 1, *Biology and Reproduction in the Wild*, by Gordon H. Rodda, provides a comprehensive description of the natural history of the species, including discussions of behavior, population biology, physiological ecology and conservation issues. This chapter is very well written, well referenced and sets the standard for the chapters that follow.

Two chapters on nutrition, *Nutrition in the Wild* by David J. Baer and *Nutrition in Captivity* by Mary E. Allen and Olav T. Oftedal, combine to provide an excellent discussion of iguana diet and nutritional requirements and I suspect those who are concerned with other herbivorous reptiles will find this information useful as well. Chapters on housing, diagnostic techniques, medicine and surgery are thorough and technologically current, as one would expect considering the experience of their authors.

This book effectively combines captive management recommendations with scientific justification based on field observation as well as standard analytical methods. The information presented should serve to improve conditions for

captive iguanas maintained as pets, commercial breeders, laboratory animals or zoo exhibits. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in iguana biology as well as to those keeping or caring for iguanas in captivity.

Desert Lizards: Captive Husbandry and Propagation

by Randall L. Gray with contributions from Dan McCarron and Tim Tytle. 2003. Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Malabar, Florida. 130 pp. + 60 color photos and 14 tables. Cloth. \$27.50. ISBN # 1-57524-160-9.

Stéphane Poulin & Craig Ivanyi

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Tucson, Arizona

Who says that someone needs a thousand pages to adequately cover a topic? This relatively short book serves quite nicely as an introduction to desert lizards. The content is good, the text and layout are user friendly and it is written in a manner that serves both the layperson and professional herpetologist equally well.

In addition to the high-quality color photos of the species discussed, there are photos with concise but descriptive captions that do a good job of clearly illustrating several important aspects of herpetological husbandry.

The introductory chapter gives the reader a sense of context by explaining what a desert is and how lizards fit into these harsh landscapes. The second and third chapters provide the reader with a thorough overview of general husbandry of desert lizards and an understanding of how one can simulate desert environments in captivity. The author describes caging requirements, substrates, cage furnishings, temperature and lighting options, how to select good animals, social behavior and proper diets. (One caution though – the author advocates the use of several supplements, some of which are easy to overdo – which may yield tragic results. In general, many supplements can be avoided by offering complete diets that mimic what a lizard would normally eat in the wild.) In chapter four, the author fittingly explores several aspects of propagation, including sexing animals, hibernation, nest sites and egg incubation.

The remainder of the book consists of six chapters that explore the taxonomy, natural history and captive husbandry of several groups of lizards, including *Uromastyx*, *Sauromalus*, *Phrynosoma* and *Crotaphytus* spp., along with a short chapter on the Desert Iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), and another devoted to several genera of exotic geckos.

Herpers in love with lizards of the American southwest might be disappointed that this book focuses on desert lizards that are currently common in the pet trade, thus a fairly narrow range of species is covered in great detail. Though a number of chapters discuss North American lizards, the majority of the text is dedicated to exotic species.

This book is a good addition to anyone's lizard library, regardless of whether they are professional zookeepers or enthusiastic amateur herpetoculturists. It will educate and entertain and promises to make a lot of captive lizards much happier for much longer!



BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

29 July 2003

Robert L. Bezy, Secretary

Directors Present: Roy Averill-Murray, Bob Bezy, Jillian Cowles, Taylor Edwards, Eric Stitt, Don Swann, Marty Tuegel.

Directors Absent: Cristina Jones, Hans Koenig, Ed Moll.

Members Present: Dennis Caldwell.

Treasurer's Report -Tuegel

Beginning Balance	\$12,174.47
Deposits	\$338.00
Expenses	\$456.81
Ending Balance	\$12,055.66

Speakers Bureau	\$1,032.56
Jarchow Award	\$172.00
FTHL Fund	\$125.00
C.H.Lowe Research Fund	\$3,533.00
PARC	\$250.00
General Fund	\$6,943.10
CRHSDIII (CD)	\$6,978.94

Itemized Deposits: Jarchow \$22.00, Membership \$120.00, Raffle \$46.00, Speakers Bureau \$50.00, T-shirt/mug \$100.00.

Itemized Expenses: Bank Charges \$7.29, Newsletter \$163.89, Postage (March-June) \$259.00, Speakers Bureau slide duplication \$26.63.

Committee Reports

Web Site – Cowles for Savary. Bill is phasing out working on the site, and the board is seeking someone to take over this responsibility.

Speakers Bureau – Edwards. Taylor and Bill Savary will be making a presentation and demonstration to the staff of Desert Diamond Casino regarding venomous reptiles.

Sonoran Herpetologist – Swann. The committee presented their recommendations for an announcement policy for the journal and the new policy was approved by the board.

Program –Roy Averill-Murray. The lineup of speakers includes:

19 Aug. - Gary Nabhan. Seri ethnoherpetology.

16 Sept. - Jarchow Award.

21 Oct. - Justin Congdon. Turtle demographics

18 Nov. - Emily Taylor.

16 Dec. – Dave Prival.

The board approved the payment of expenses for Gary Nabhan to travel to the August meeting.

Old Business

Jarchow Award – Edwards. The committee has selected Phil Rosen as the recipient of this year's award. The award ceremony will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on 16 September. A silent auction of books from the library of the late Dick Martin will be conducted at the award ceremony and the proceeds will go to the Jarchow fund.

Collected Papers from Sonoran Herpetologist –Stitt. Eric obtained prices for electronic reproduction of a CD and/or production of a bound printed volume of the papers. The board approved the expenditure of up to \$70 for scanning the papers to obtain a PDF file.

New Business

Tarahumara Frog Re-introduction Proposal – Roy Averill-Murray.

The deadline for comments on the proposed re-introduction has passed. Eight comments were received. The board voted to send a late letter to AGFD supporting the proposal.

AGFD Commission Orders – Roy Averill-Murray. The new orders include a proposal to have a closed season on take of Milk Snakes in Cochise County.

Sky Island Alliance Wilderness Proposal – Edwards. The board voted to support for the proposal to designate the Tumacacori highlands as wilderness.

