

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF NEPAL

Jetzt lieferbar !

Available now !



H. Hermann Schleich & Werner Kästle, Eds.

Schleich, H.H. & Kästle, W., Eds.

Amphibian and Reptiles of Nepal. Biology, Systematics, Field Guide. 2002
1200 pages, 377 colour photographs. Hardcover.

€ 149 / US\$ 166

ISBN 3-904144-79-0 (079273)

Nepal owes its rich diversity of over 50 amphibian and 130 reptile species to its unique geographic conditions. The country forms a gigantic flight of steps from the Gangetic Plain to the Tibetan Plateau, with climatic belts from the subtropics to eternal snow. Situated at the transitional zone between the Palearctic and Oriental zoogeographic regions, its herpetofauna consists of a mixture of Indian, Himalayan, Indo-Malayan, Tibetan, Chinese and SW Asian elements.

In spite of the fact that the herpetological exploration of Nepal began almost 200 years ago, there are still many open questions. Even the distribution of several deadly venomous snake species is almost unknown. Above all information on the East was very scarce, and recent expeditions brought surprising new records, including hints on the occurrence of a species of Flying Dragons.

This book intends a critical stock-taking of today's knowledge, including general ambient conditions, aspects of ethno-herpetology, conservation, snakebite incidents and zoogeography. The special part consists of illustrated keys as well as detailed paragraphs on each of the species. Besides the characters which are necessary for identification, there is a wealth of information on biological details of ecology, behaviour and reproduction.

Especial emphasis is laid on verified records from Nepal, which are plotted on a grid map for each species. A regional map shows the distribution of each species in Nepal and the adjacent countries. Two detailed lists furnish data on distribution in Nepal. One of them compiles the recorded localities for every species (in several cases over 100), the other gives geographic information on localities as elevation and position on the grid maps.

Over 2,000 marginal drawings supplement the identification keys and provide additional information on morphological and biological details. 127 colour plates with 377 pictures illustrate over 130 species which are – with few exceptions – taken from life and often present different aspects of one species as variable colour patterns, sexes and developmental stages. 21 photos present typical habitats, others illustrate threats to the species as frog hunting, „killing for precaution“, souvenir market or inadequate keeping in temples.

Up to our days printed information on amphibians and reptiles of Nepal consisted of more or less critically viewed checklists or even fantastic compilations without any solid base. Additionally, there were no general identification keys available.

This book now furnishes a solid base for future herpetological research, which is not only of scientific interest, but can help to reduce the number of snakebite victims drastically or help to avert imminent extermination of threatened species. Due to its rich illustration and an ample chapter on terminology it is not only addressed to scientists or students, but will also be of use to every interested naturalist.

Orders will be recorded at

Koeltz Scientific Books

P.O Box 1360 D-61453 Koenigstein / Germany

PHONE: National: 06174 93720 / International: +49 6174 93720

FAX: National: 06174 93740 / International: +49 6174 93240

e-mail: info@koeltz.com / Internet: <http://www.koeltz.com>

