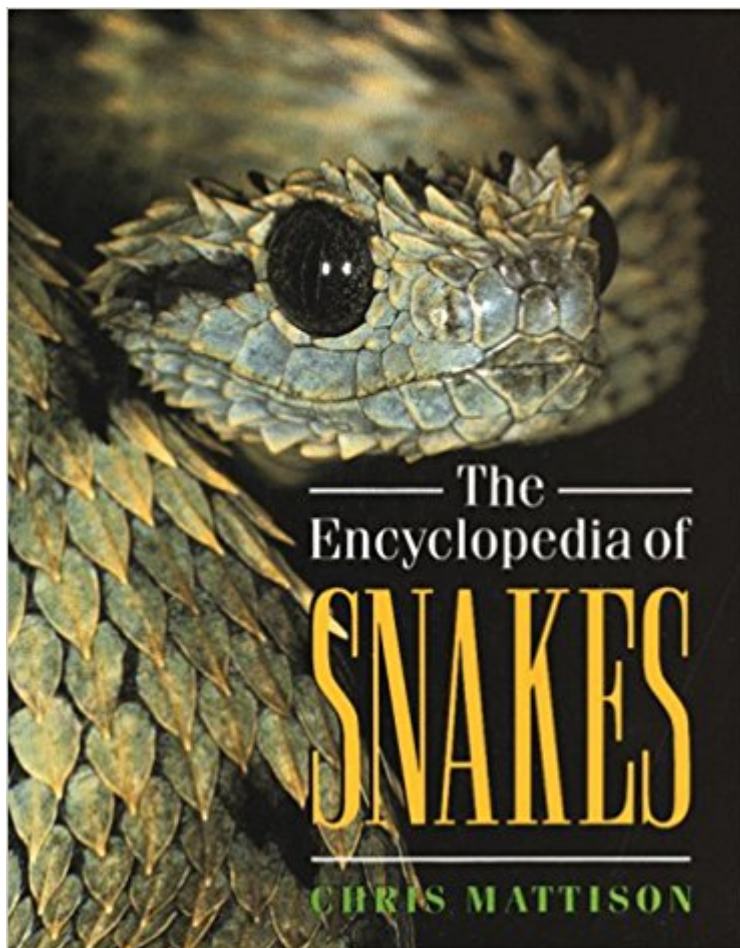


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The Encyclopedia Of Snakes



Synopsis

Often the stuff of phobias, always the source of fascination, snakes have long charmed nature watchers of all stripes. This beautifully illustrated book covers the most popular aspects of snake biology and is intended to be "the" most informative and comprehensive title on the subject yet published.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

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Customer Reviews

YA?This fine resource is organized by broad themes that cover pertinent aspects of the life cycle of snakes?their biology, history, and taxonomy. Chapter topics include origin and evolution, morphology and function, feeding, defense, and reproduction. One especially interesting chapter highlights the tenuous relationship between snakes and humans. Fascinating sidebars offer tantalizing insights into research, history, and misconceptions. The book's organization encourages students to keep reading after locating specific answers to their questions. The detailed index includes both common and scientific names. Numerous colorful, closeup photographs call attention to the text and will attract browsers. An excellent addition to herpetology collections.?Gary Filmore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VACopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Mattison opens his large-scale study of snakes (not an encyclopedia of snakes as the title suggests) with the scientific definition of the creature and how it differs from other reptiles. He then moves on to cover their taxonomy, morphology, habitats, diet, reproduction, and protective mechanisms.

Especially interesting are the discussions of the snake's relationship with humans in myth and reality. Color photographs illustrate the discussion throughout. A field day for herpetologists and snake-loving readers. To be indexed, generally and by species. Denise Perry Donavin

Chris Mattison has a winner on his hands with this book from its beautiful photography to the well written text. If you are veteran snake person or brand new and want to learn there is something for everyone in this large format book. After reading this book you will understand how important snakes are to the overall ecology of nature. I really loved this book and read it in one long, long sitting as I could not put it down.

I would use this book as one of the texts if I were teaching a herpetology course. It contains a comprehensive view of snakes' anatomy, sensory organs, and adaptations. If you're looking for a book that will give you an amazing amount of general snake knowledge, this is the book for you. For accounts of particular species, however, you will need to pick up additional material.

Books as awesome as these aren't made any more! It was a total steal!!

Great photos and book was in great shape

Basic reptile information. Such as species identification and housing and feeding your captive, Easy to understand. Well written. Good Pictures.

That was the word used when I asked my son-in-law how he liked his birthday present. He generally is not a reader but is very interested in snakes. He read the entire book and enjoyed it very much. He said he gained a lot of useful information.

This book provides great info for snakes and their physiology, as well as taxonomy/classification. The main thing I found lacking was information on specific species; though it covers family/genus info fairly well, I felt it forsook the "trees for the forest." But overall very good.

This comprehensive, highly illustrated book covers the most popular aspects of snake biology and is intended to be the most informative and comprehensive title on the subject yet published.

Throughout, colour photographs show the fascinating variety of snake coloration as well as being

used to illustrate and clarify points of interest. Each chapter consists of a main theme containing text, photographs and diagrams. There is a detailed coverage of snake classification, evolution, natural diversity, size, shape and coloration, physiology, ecology, feeding, defensive behaviour, breeding, mythology, superstition and modern human attitudes to snakes. In addition, there are 'fact boxes' within each chapter, which comprise items of special importance and interest, such as scale-type, population in the wild, egg incubation, etc. Above all, this will be a major international title for all involved and interested in snakes, their zoology and care in captivity. Chris Mattison is a professional herpetologist, based in Sheffield in the UK, with an international reputation as a writer on the topic. He is a long-established Cassell/Blandford author, having written *Snakes of the World*, *Keeping and Breeding Snakes* and half-a-dozen other related titles. A member of both the British and International Herpetological Societies, he travels widely photographing reptiles in the wild and is in demand as a lecturer on the subject in Europe and North America.

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