

size, vocalization, reproduction, development, diet, predation, defense, threats, and conservation. Individual accounts range from two paragraphs on *Triturus carnifex* to 42 pages for *Rana temporaria*. There is some variation in the way in which the sections dealing with distribution, population size, and conservation are dealt with. For some species these topics are presented on a general regional basis, in others comments are formally divided by Bundesländer. The maps are based on recent records, chiefly since 1960, with the majority of records since the mid-1970s. Points are plotted onto a standard national map showing major rivers and Bundesländer boundaries and divided into grid cells 11.5 km on a side.

The book concludes with red lists (federal and state) of amphibians and reptiles, references, and an index to German and Latin names. The reference list includes more than 2250 citations, perhaps a record for a book of this nature. Although citations are not as complete as one might like (publishers are not listed for books), the reference list as a whole will prove especially enlightening for North Americans who may be unaware of the diversity of outlets in which German herpetological research has been published.

The text is supplemented by 86 tables and illustrated by 328 black and white figures, maps, charts and graphs, ten black and white plates (mostly associated with the amphibian keys), and 16 color plates with 92 individual photos. The color figures are all adequate or better, although not exceptional. All German species are illustrated in color, usually with the locality of the specimen given. Only in the case of *Triturus carnifex* is an extralimital specimen illustrated. Other color photos include typical habitats, larvae, eggs, mating and defensive behaviors. Black and white photos (habitats, sexual variation, abnormalities, larvae, etc.) are not of uniform quality. Some show depth of field focal problems and others seem to have suffered in the conversion from color slides, with too little or too much contrast. Line drawings are uniformly well executed as are the many graphs, sonograms, pie charts, and histograms.

For most North Americans, language will be a barrier to accessing the information in this book and the amount of detail provided will be overkill. Further, the price will be prohibitive for many herpetologists who do not have active research interests in Europe. However, the book stands as one of the best and most comprehensive country guides available. Indeed, in its specificity and presentation of comprehensive primary literature-based data, *Amphibien und Reptilien Deutschlands* is practically unrivaled. The only comparable recent treatment of European species has been in the ongoing *Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas*, edited by Wolfgang Böhme (most recent volume—Böehme 1993) which provides more of an emphasis on morphology (including osteology, hemipenial structure, etc.) and, of course, deals with distribution and biology continent wide. Günther has set an impressive example for authors of other European national herpetofaunal volumes to follow.

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The Amphibian Fauna of Sri Lanka, by Sushil K. Dutta and Kelum Manamendra-Arachchi. 1996. Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka, 95 Cotta Road, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka. 230 pp. Hardcover with dust jacket. Price: Sri Lankan Rs. 1,500 (approx. US \$59.00). ISBN 955-9114-10-7.

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Last reviewed nearly forty years ago by Parakrama Kirtisinghe, the amphibian fauna of the island nation of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) has increased from 35 species to 53 species. Though well produced for its time, with admirable pen-and-ink sketches, Kirtisinghe's (1957) work is, as expected in tropical countries where biological explorations are incomplete, sadly outdated. As an interim replacement (pending a revision of the fauna now being undertaken by these authors), we are provided with this volume that was brought out during the International Conference on the Biology of the South Asian Amphibians and Reptiles, held in Kandy, Sri Lanka, between 1–5 August 1996. Appropriately, the work honors one of the gifted Sri Lankan naturalists, the late P. B. Karunaratne, collector of many new species of both plants and animals, including some of the herpetological types described by P. E. P. Deraniyagala.

The Introduction contains a short history of explorations in Sri Lanka, a brief review of materials examined, the methods used, an account of Sri Lanka's climate and biogeography (plus a gazetteer with coordinates and altitudes of the 235 sites sampled), and a short (half page) section on amphibian conservation. One is alarmed to read that a decline in precipitation of as much as 25% has taken place during the last century, and few areas of primary forest remain untouched by man.

The book by Dutta (a Lecturer in Developmental Biology at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, India) and Manamendra-Arachchi (Research Associate with the Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka, WHT, Colombo, Sri Lanka), however, is much more than a field guide. Because it contains synonymies, diagnoses, taxonomic comments, and is lavishly illustrated with both color and black and white photos, it approaches a monograph in technical quality. Born out of a partnership between Dutta (who examined virtually all relevant types as part of a thesis at the University of Kansas; see Dutta 1985) and Manamendra-Arachchi (who did fresh field work to gather new distribution and taxonomic data), the work illustrates all taxa currently recognized from the island (except the enigmatic *Nannophrys guentheri*, whose taxonomic status is questionable and also, surprisingly, the widespread *Microhyla ornata*) with a color photo and very often, photographs of the types and several non-types, from various localities in the country and sometimes from neighboring India. For most photographs, the captions provide information on size of specimen, location, and museum number. The authors deserve to be commended, not only for gathering a near-comprehensive collection of photos, but also for their industry in providing redescrptions of virtually all species through reexamination of the appropriate type specimens and new collections.

The system of classification of ranids is that proposed by Dubois (1992), while the caecilian accounts are based primarily on the work of Nussbaum and Gans (1980). Each species account includes the currently recognized scientific name, synonymy, including the type locality and present location of the primary type, a diagnosis, description (simple and superficial in terms of general body proportions, webbing of toes, etc.), plus color in life,