

Partager Signaler un abus Blog suivants

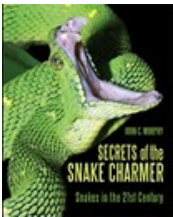


Serpent Research

Herpetological Natural History with an Emphasis on Snakes

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Secrets of the Snake Charmer

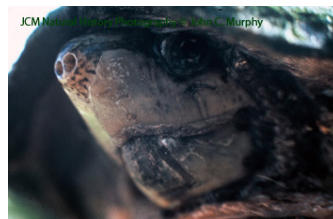


Reviewers have said the following about this book: "This book is an easy to read summary on the research on snake species of the world." "This book is a fascinating read and an encyclopedia of information on all aspects of snake zoology. However, it does not have the dry characteristic of writing characteristic of encyclopedic accounts. Instead, it is well-written (easily understandable by laypersons and herpetologists) and has a unique topical organization unlike other herpetological books." "This is an exceptional book on snakes, a perfect mix of factual information and historical anecdotes without being too technical." "This book has it all...evolution, genetics, natural history, distribution and much, much more. Well written, readable and is the most comprehensive snake book published in the past few years. It contains a lot of new findings and research that changes many previously held beliefs regarding snakes and their habits." "Congratulations for the amazing piece of work!" "A very stimulating read . . . full of intellectual nuggets.... Every herpetologist needs it."

Welcome to Serpent

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Musk Turtles & Their Habitat

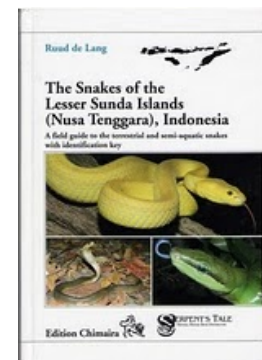


Common Musk Turtle, *Stenotherus odoratus*

Musk turtles, *Stenotherus odoratus* (family Kinosternidae), are highly aquatic and are rarely observed basking on branches or shorelines (ariel basking) which is typical of most freshwater turtles. Instead, musk turtles bask while floating at the surface of the water under or in aquatic vegetation. Gabriel Picard and colleagues expected aquatic habitats with surface cover of emergent aquatic vegetation such as lily pads or other floating macrophytes to be of higher thermal quality than other aquatic habitats devoid of such cover. They examined musk turtles preferentially use of these high thermal quality habitats in the St. Lawrence River (Ontario, Canada). The study area was along the southeastern shore of Grenadier Island. The turtles were captured by hand and 22 adult musk turtles were fitted with temperaturesensitive radio-transmitters. They found habitats with the highest thermal quality were the ones with surface cover, such as lily pads, followed by shallow water. As expected, musk turtles used habitats non-randomly and had a strong preference for thermally superior habitats. This is consistent with the typical aquatic basking behaviour observed in musk turtles, suggesting that there is a strong link between thermal quality of habitats and habitat selection, even in this almost entirely aquatic turtle. The authors note the importance of protecting natural shoreline habitats because they possess more emergent and aquatic vegetation than developed shorelines, a habitat structure that is crucial to musk turtles.

Picard, G., M.-A. Carrière, G. Blouin-Demers. 2011. Common Musk Turtles (*Stenotherus odoratus*) select habitats of high thermal quality at the northern

New Book



A field guide to the terrestrial and semi-aquatic snakes of the Lesser Sunda Islands with identification key. Over 220 color photos. 349 pp. Hardcover. Herpetological field guides to remote corners of the world are becoming more common. Ruud de Lang has now produced a book to rival his Snakes of Sulawesi (co-authored with Gernot Vogel), The Snakes of the Lesser Sunda Islands (Nusa Tenggara), Indonesia, has just been released by Edition Chimaira. The Lesser Sundas are a chain of small islands that link the Indonesian Archipelago with the Australasian region and therefore have considerable interest for biogeographers. The book examines the 36 species of snakes in nine families that inhabit about 20 islands that range in size from the tiny 20 km² island of Padar to the 14,000 km² islands of Flores and Timor. This well written and excellently produced volume stands alone as the single source of information on the snakes of this region. Keys, illustrated species accounts, photographs of habitats, and distribution maps make this a particularly valuable volume for anyone