

## BOOK REVIEWS

Alberts, A. C., R. L. Carter, W. K. Hayes and E. P. Martins (eds.). 2004. *Iguanas: Biology and Conservation*. University of California Press, Berkeley. xvi + 356 pp. Cloth, \$65.00.

Since its publication in 1982, *Iguanas of the World: Their Behavior, Ecology and Conservation* (G.M. Burghardt and A.S. Rand, eds. Noyes, Publ. Park Ridge, New Jersey) has served as a primary reference for anyone interested in iguanas. The 31 authors represented in that volume summarized what was known about the biology of most genera in the subfamily Iguaninae of the family Iguanidae as it was then understood. Intended primarily for the professional biologist, the book predated the explosion of interest in iguanas brought about by the relatively recent rise in the popularity of Green Iguanas in the pet trade, and of breeder interest in some of the highly endangered West Indian Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura*). It also predated the discovery of the amazing shrinking Marine Iguanas of the Galápagos Islands, the rediscovery of the "extinct" Jamaican Rock Iguana (*Cyclura collei*), and extensive research in the field and on captive colonies of many other iguanines. Consequently, I opened the literary heir-apparent to Burghardt and Rand's landmark volume with considerable anticipation.

The new book evolved from a symposium sponsored by the Herpetologists' League in 1997. With the exception of Gordon Burghardt, none of the authors who were represented in the Burghardt and Rand volume contributed to this one, but the general themes are essentially the same: evolutionary diversity, behavior and ecology, and conservation of iguanas. Following an introductory and largely autobiographical chapter by Burghardt, a section of the book is devoted to each of these themes.

The five chapters of Part I are devoted to diversity. The first provides a useful discussion of the evolution and relationships of iguanas, and includes a checklist of species. The taxonomy of lizards in the family Iguanidae has been controversial. Pending resolution of that controversy, the author adopts a concept of Iguanidae attributable to Frost and Etheridge (1989. *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History Miscellaneous Publication* no. 81). That concept recognizes the following living genera: *Amblyrhynchus* (Galapagos Marine Iguana, 1 species), *Brachylophus* (Fijian Iguanas, 2 species), *Conolophus* (Galapagos Land Iguanas, 2 species), *Ctenosaura* (Neotropical Spiny-tailed Iguanas, 17 species), *Cyclura* (West Indian Rock Iguanas, 7 species), *Dipsosaurus* (Desert Iguanas, 2 species), *Iguana* (Green Iguanas, 2 species), and *Sauromalus* (Chuckwallas, 5 species). Two Malagasy genera, *Oplurus* and *Chalarodon*, are excluded, although, interestingly, the editors include them in the preface, but make no mention of them in the introductions to each of the three main sections of the book. Following the chapter on evolution and relationships, the next three chapters are based on genetic data: the contributions of genetic research to the conservation of Caribbean iguanas, the genetic structure of the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana (*C. carinata*) and its importance to the conservation of the species, and the evolution of Galapagos iguanas as revealed by molecular data. The last chapter in the section concerns sodium and potassium secretion by



means of salt glands. More comparative than other chapters, it makes comparisons with species in other families of lizards, and specifically addresses the function and importance of salt glands and their association with herbivory and marine diets.

The titles of the first two chapters in the section on behavior and ecology suggest that they will be broadly comparative, but they actually discuss only the results of research on *C. carinata* in the Turks & Caicos Islands. The first documents the occurrence of appeasement displays and the second compares the display behavior and morphology among populations and relates these to island area and to vegetation heights and densities. The next five chapters discuss laboratory and field studies of sexually dimorphic antipredator behavior in Green Iguanas, determinants of mating success by male Galapagos Marine Iguanas (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) in leks (defined as "clusters of territorial males"), environmental determinants of body size in Marine Iguanas (the "shrinking iguanas" mentioned above), Chuckwallas (*Sauromalus obesus*), and Desert Iguanas (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), and factors affecting the long-term growth of the Allen's Cays Rock Iguana (*C. cyclura inornata*). The latter chapter also considers the effects of human visitation.

The final section consists of seven chapters devoted to conservation. Topics include translocation strategies, headstarting, habitat restoration, the role of zoos, and the potential impact of ecotourism. All of these chapters are based on studies conducted in the West Indies. Despite this limitation, this section of the

book should attract the broadest readership because all of the topics included are applicable to reptiles and animals other than iguanid lizards.

The book is well-produced, with a solid binding, tight editing, and a general absence of typographical errors. The tables and graphical illustrations are uniformly unambiguous and informative, and the black and white photographs are clearly reproduced. A small complaint: reproducing some of the latter in color would have been nice. Although the volume had its origins in a symposium held over six years prior to publication, the chapters are remarkably up-to-date, and this distinguishes it from many other symposium volumes that have seen long delays between the oral presentations and publication. Of the 906 references in the Literature Cited, 218 (24%) were published in 1998 or later, the most recent in 2003. In fact, for students of iguanid biology, the Literature Cited section will be a treasure.

I have only one major complaint about the book: the title, *Iguanas: Biology and Conservation*, is misleading. The bulk of the book (and the entire section on conservation) concerns West Indian iguanas, primarily a few species of *Cyclura*. Fijian Iguanas are barely mentioned, only one (of five) species of Chuckwallas is discussed in detail, and none of the 17 species of Spiny-tailed Iguanas are addressed beyond their inclusion in the checklist.

This may reflect the origins of the book in a symposium held in 1997, when Mexican biologists were just beginning to study various aspects of the biology of Spiny-tailed Iguanas, or it may reflect the interests of the editors, all of whom have emphasized West Indian Rock Iguanas in their own research, or both. Regardless, the book would have benefited from contributions on, at least, the conservation status of a broader range of iguanid genera and species. As it stands, subtitling the book "*Biology and Conservation with Emphasis on the West Indies and the Galápagos*" might have been appropriate. In this one respect, the new book does not match its predecessor.

Like the Burghardt and Rand volume, this book is intended primarily for the professional biologist who studies lizards, but it will be of interest to others as well. Private breeders of iguanas will find much useful information in the chapters on ecology and behavior. Conservation biologists and, indeed, anyone with an interest in these fascinating lizards will find the chapters on conservation interesting and informative. Hopefully, in a decade or so, a third volume in this budding series will more fully acknowledge the diversity within the family Iguanidae.

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## Iguanas in Wonderland: The Depiction of Reptiles in Children's Literature

**Johnston, Tony.** 1995. *The Iguana Brothers: A Tale of Two Lizards*. Illustrated by Mark Teague. Blue Sky Press, New York, New York. 30 pp. Cloth, \$15.95.

**Laden, Nina.** 1995. *Private I. Guana: The Case of the Missing Chameleon*. Illustrated by the author. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, California. 26 pp. Softcover, \$5.95.

**Krailing, Tessa.** 1998. *The Pet Sitter's Club 8: Where's Iggy*. Illustrated by Jan Lewis. Barron's Educational Series, Inc., Hauppauge, New York. 94 pp. Softcover, \$3.95.

**Snicket, Lemony.** 1999. *A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book 2: The Reptile Room*. Illustrated by Brett Helquist. HarperCollins Publishers Inc., New York, New York. 191 pp. Cloth, \$10.99.

**Wiebe, Trina.** 2000. *Abby and Tess Pet sitters: Lizards Don't Wear Lip Gloss*. Illustrated by Marisol Sarrazin. Lobster Press, Montreal, Quebec. 91 pp. Softcover, \$5.95.

As both a student and a fan of children's literature, I have long been fascinated by its ability to shape the imagination of readers young and old. I recently had the opportunity to spend some time in the children's book section of a well-stocked bookstore, where I came across a number of reptile-related works of fiction, which provide some very different representations of their animal subjects.

Two of these books were quite similar, featuring groups of children who are "pet-sitting" reptiles that escape from their enclosures. In *Where's Iggy?*, published in the UK, the iguana named in the title seems well cared for, housed in a large terrarium in a greenhouse and outfitted with a heat lamp, a climbing branch, and a water tray. However, the owner of the lizard instructs the children that Iggy "doesn't eat a lot, mainly cabbage leaves and bananas ... and crickets." So, where's Iggy? His loca-