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## Editor's Remarks

In this issue (p. 240), we feature the Utila Anole (*Norops [Anolis] utilensis*), which may be the world's most endangered anole — and a species about which we know very little. Unfortunately, many of the reptilian species that are threatened by human activity are similarly unknown and consequently receive little or no protection. A few years ago, an intense effort to assess the conservation status of amphibians worldwide resulted in many species that had previously received little or no attention afforded at least an acknowledgement of their precarious state through inclusion on the IUCN Red List. Although a comparable effort is being initiated for reptiles, an obvious inequity currently exists. For example, when considering amphibians and reptiles of the Dominican Republic, 32 of 37 native species of amphibians (86%) known to occur in the country are redlisted. In stark contrast, only 15 of 108 native reptilian species (14%) are included in the IUCN list (and four of the listed species are sea turtles that are endangered throughout the region and the world). Among species that are excluded is one snake that may already be extinct (*Alsophis melanichmus*) and several others that are known to be very rare (*A. anomalus* and two species in the genus *Latris*) — all are diurnally active and terrestrial. The principal threat is undoubtedly predation by introduced mongooses (*Herpestes javanicus*), also implicated in the extirpation of *A. antiguae* from Antigua proper and in the presumed extinction of *A. ater* from Jamaica. Although redlisting may come too late for some of these snakes, we hope that efforts to assess the conservation status of the world's reptiles succeeds in shedding light on the plight of species for which hope may still exist.

Robert Powell

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**The International Reptile Conservation Foundation works to conserve reptiles and the natural habitats and ecosystems that support them.**

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