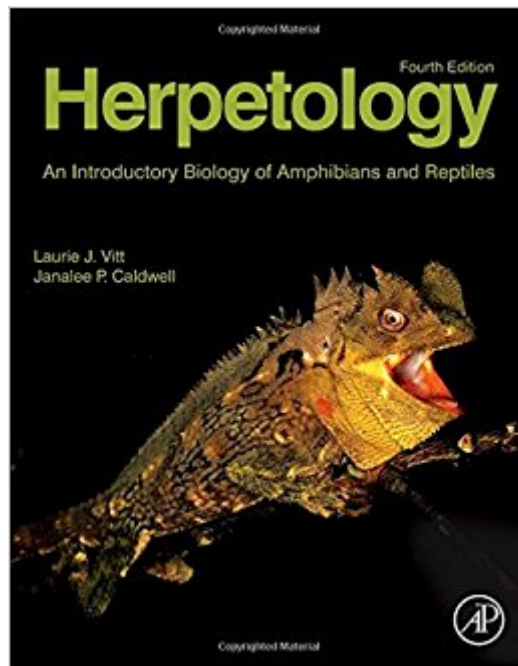




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# Herpetology, Fourth Edition: An Introductory Biology Of Amphibians And Reptiles



## Synopsis

The fourth edition of the textbook *Herpetology* covers the basic biology of amphibians and reptiles, with updates in nearly every conceptual area. Not only does it serve as a solid foundation for modern herpetology courses, but it is also relevant to courses in ecology, behavior, evolution, systematics, and morphology. Examples taken from amphibians and reptiles throughout the world make this book a useful herpetology textbook in several countries. Naturalists, amateur herpetologists, herpetoculturists, zoo professionals, and many others will find this book readable and full of relevant natural history and distributional information. Amphibians and reptiles have assumed a central role in research because of the diversity of ecological, physiological, morphological, behavioral, and evolutionary patterns they exhibit. This fully revised edition brings the latest research to the reader, ranging over topics in evolution, reproduction, behavior and more, allowing students and professionals to keep current with a quickly moving field. Heavily revised and updated with discussion of squamate (lizard and snake) taxonomy and new content reflected in current literature. Includes increased focus on conservation biology in herpetology while retaining solid content on organismal biology of reptiles and amphibians. Presents new photos included from authors' extensive library.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In this fourth edition of their herpetology textbook, Vitt and Caldwell have broken the subject down into six main parts comprised of 22 chapters. The first three parts cover evolutionary history,

reproductive schemes, and physiology. Part four covers behavioral topics such as foraging, defense strategies, and communication, while part five is devoted to ecology, conservation and geographical distribution of species. Part six breaks down the classification system used for amphibians and reptiles covering all major subgroups such as frogs, salamanders, snakes, etc. Reference & Research Book News, December 2013 "Many of the new insights into the understanding of reptile and amphibian biology have been updated in this edition resulting in its increased size and making it a great value. This book will be an excellent addition to the library of anyone interested in herpetology."--Journal of American Veterinary Medicine Association, December 15, 2013 "Is this the best herpetology textbook available? Yes. Will I use it in my one semester course for upper-level undergraduates? Yes, this book will challenge them and would certainly also be suitable for a graduate course. Is it worth having students buy the new (4th) edition over the 3rd? Yes, updates to the content and to the references cited and enhancement of illustrations are worth it."--Phyllomedusa, December 2013

Dr. Vitt is a reptile ecologist who received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 1976. He was a Professor at UCLA for 8 years and Professor and Curator at the Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma for 21 years. He currently maintains Emeritus status. He has had extensive field experience in American deserts and New World tropics, especially Brazil. He has published more than 250 research articles and 8 books. Awards include appointment as a George Lynn Cross Research Professor at the University of Oklahoma, membership in the Brazilian Academy of Scientists, Distinguished Alumnus (Western Washington University), Distinguished Herpetologist (Herpetologist League), and two book awards. Dr. Caldwell is an amphibian biologist who received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1974. She was a Professor of Biology and Curator at the Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma for 21 years, where she received recognition for outstanding research. She is now Professor Emeritus and Curator Emerita. Dr. Caldwell conducted field research in tropical forests in Brazil and other South American countries that resulted in publication of numerous scientific articles. She served as President of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles and as editor of several scientific journals. She participated in various projects with the goal of encouraging young people, especially girls, to choose careers in science.

This is a decent herpetology textbook with an unsatisfactory index. I think most of the problems relate to this edition's updates, not the last. I recall having rare issues with page numbers not matching up in the index (although maybe they resolved that in future printings?) The index isn't

comprehensive enough, either. It's not terrible, but the little things add up, like parthenogenesis not being in the glossary and urostyle not being in the index. The word frog isn't in the index either, when there should be a chapter reference (Anura is in the taxonomic index, though, to be fair). You may think it's not an issue, but when you're up at two in the morning and you're looking up pits, sensory pits, LABIAL pits, INTERLABIAL PITS!!! And you've forgotten which clade has them... while your internet is down... This book just needs a more comprehensive index, is all. It's important, because this is an introductory book, so it needs to be accessible to an introductory audience. The information is no good if it can't be found. Which is a pity, because this is an accessibly written, otherwise thorough book. If you read it cover to cover, you will be well-versed in the herps. If you already know all there is to know, you'll find it easy to work around the book and find specific elements (labial pits: infra-red sensory organ, page 68; see pitvipers, some boas and some pythons)... But if you're at that point, you don't need the book.

This book is a good overview of reptile biology for beginners. It covers such topics as the origin of tetrapods, early evolution of reptiles and amphibians, bases of their anatomy and physiology, as well as ecology and behavior. The chapters about phylogeography and systematics are consistent with most recent scientific works. However, due to limited volume of the book, all the topics are covered quite briefly. It will be an excellent book for college/university/high school students who are interested in reptiles. However, it perhaps would be of limited interest for herpetologists, since it is very basic. Also this book does not cover such important topics as reptile and amphibian toxins, reptile and amphibian genomics, issues of sex determination, comparative and evolutionary cytogenetics. All these topics have high fundamental value and are intensely studied. This is quite an important disadvantage, so only 4 stars.

This book gives a great history of the evolution of reptiles along with diagrams and charts to enhance comprehension. The chapters regarding anatomy and physiology are very interesting and provide a lot of useful information for the reptile hobbyist. Although, I would have enjoyed even more details about these interesting creatures physiologic processes, especially dietary requirements. Overall, good reference and a lot of interesting information,

A treasure trove of information, this college level book covers everything from evolution to biology and ecology. It manages to, rightly so, keep separated the reptiles from the amphibians but explains in detail their relationship. Color photographs as well as detailed sketches make this a great learning

book.

Great text, and I'm really happy with the price! It's a fantastic reference for someone with a little bit of a science background who wants to know more about what makes reptiles and amphibians so special!

Great book for my grandson. He says the book was like new, it was listed as used. This was a great buy, would recommend to everyone about to go into this field.....

My daughter is a biologist and loves this book. Great reference book.

A good book for herpetology courses. It is well written, and well illustrated.

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