



IRCF

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS



The IRCF Quarterly Journal

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS** **Conservation and Natural History**

The editors of R&A are soliciting contributions in the following categories: (1) research articles, (2) feature articles, (3) articles on all aspects of reptilian husbandry, (4) profiles of persons who have made important contributions to herpetology or the conservation of reptiles, (5) travelogues, (6) historical perspectives, (7) commentaries, (8) book reviews, (9) summaries of articles addressing the conservation of reptiles that have been published elsewhere, and (10) newsbriefs (short summaries or announcements of pertinent events that may have appeared in the popular press). See below for brief descriptions of each category. Format should follow that in recent issues of R&A. All submissions are subject to editing for content and style.

Unsolicited material will be considered, but contributors are encouraged to contact either AJ Gutman ([AJ@IRCF.org](mailto:AJ@IRCF.org)) or Robert Powell ([powellr@mail.avila.edu](mailto:powellr@mail.avila.edu)) prior to submission. Contributions may be submitted as hardcopy, but electronic submission is preferred.

All submissions should be accompanied by photographs and/or other artwork of sufficiently high quality to permit publication. For more information about photograph or artwork submissions please refer to the IRCF's "Photograph and Graphic Submission Guidelines" document. If images or artwork are not that of the contributor, these should be accompanied by documentation that permission for one-time use is granted by the photographer or artist. Each image should be numbered, and captions, including credits naming the photographer/artist, should be appended to the end of the manuscript. Photographs or artwork may be submitted as photographs or transparencies (contact the editors for mailing address) or as digital files ( see "Photograph and Graphic Submission Guidelines" document) on a CD or attached to an email. Original photographs, film slides and/or negatives will be returned. We highly recommend sending duplicates in the event the originals are lost.

### **Research Articles**

Research articles present new information, and may include reports on original research pertaining to reptiles and amphibians, review articles addressing topics pertaining to conservation or natural history (defined to include behavior) of reptiles and amphibians, or species lists for areas of interest (e.g., reserves or natural areas). Format requires an abstract, list of key words, body with headers (e.g., introduction, methods, results, discussion or equivalents for review articles), and literature cited. References should be cited within the text. Length is variable, and both short and long contributions are acceptable. We will consider reprinting or adapting articles published elsewhere (if important and if written permission is obtained from the holder of the copyright). In general, articles that include extensive statistical analyses of data are not appropriate and should be submitted elsewhere; if in doubt, contact an editor. The editors may send research articles to outside reviewers, and authors are encouraged to submit names and contact information (email) of 2–3 qualified reviewers with their article.

### **Feature Articles**

Feature articles present new information pertaining to the conservation or natural history of reptiles and amphibians and may include reports on original research, conservation efforts, experiences, or observations on natural history. No abstract or key words are included. The body of the text may include headers, but these need not correspond to those associated with research articles. Pertinent references should be provided (as appropriate), but should not be cited in the text. Length is variable, but very long contributions may be abridged. We will consider reprinting or adapting articles published elsewhere (if important and if written permission is obtained from the holder of the copyright). Feature articles are not sent to outside reviewers.

### **Articles on Reptilian Husbandry**

Articles on husbandry may address the care and propagation of certain species or groups of reptiles and amphibians, some aspect of husbandry (e.g., housing, lighting, nutrition, diseases), husbandry techniques (e.g., handling, medical or first-aid treatment), or detailed discussions/evaluations/reviews of relevant equipment or supplies. Format is essentially similar to that for feature articles. Authors are encouraged to emphasize responsible husbandry and include information about the conservation status of their subjects as appropriate.

### **Profiles**

Profiles feature persons who have made major contributions to herpetology or the conservation of reptiles and amphibians. Articles should provide at least basic biographical information, but should emphasize the subject's contributions to the field. If the person is alive, permission must be granted by the subject and that person may request the right to review the article prior to publication. Format is essentially similar to that for feature articles.

### **Travelogues**

Travelogues are accounts of trips to destinations of herpetological interest. Although a focus on reptiles and amphibians should be evident, the account may include other relevant facts (e.g., biological interests other than reptiles, sites of historical significance, recreational opportunities). Travelogues should include information pertaining to logistics (e.g., getting there, accommodations), as necessary, and a list of particularly useful references should be appended, if appropriate. Format is essentially that of an essay, although header may be used as in feature articles.

### **Historical Perspectives**

Historical perspectives are reprints or excerpts of articles published at least 50 years ago. The best submissions will describe conditions or attitudes that contrast sharply with those that prevail today. In some cases, several related perspectives may be submitted as a group; if these were written by the same author, a biographical sketch of the author may be appropriate (see a recent issue of R&A for examples). Persons submitting historical perspectives should determine whether any copyright protection applies and seek written permission for publication if it does.

### **Commentaries**

Commentaries are editorial essays addressing topical issues pertaining to reptiles, the study of reptiles, conservation, or husbandry. Opinions expressed need not reflect those of the editors, but must be justified by personal experience or references to appropriate sources of evidence. Although some commentaries will inevitably address controversial issues, editors retain the right to reject those deemed inappropriate. Format is essentially that of an essay, although header may be used as in feature articles.

### **Book Reviews**

Reviews of books should be limited to those dealing with subject matter pertaining to topics related to conservation, natural history, or husbandry. Reviewers are encouraged to contact the editors before submitting a review. The editors are unable to provide free copies of books for purposes of review. Format should follow that in recent issues of R&A.

**Conservation Research Reports**

These reports are short summaries of research articles dealing with reptilian or amphibian conservation that have been published elsewhere. Summaries should include the names of the authors, year of publication, journal in which the original article was published, and pagination) as well as an overview of the article's content. These are designed to serve the purpose of alerting readers to relevant information published in outlets with which they might not be familiar.

**Natural History Research Reports**

These reports are short summaries of research articles dealing with reptilian or amphibian natural history that have been published elsewhere. Summaries should include the names of the authors, year of publication, journal in which the original article was published, and pagination) as well as an overview of the article's content. These are designed to serve the purpose of alerting readers to relevant information published in outlets with which they might not be familiar.

**Newsbriefs**

Newsbriefs are very short summaries of articles from the popular press (e.g., newspapers, magazines), announcements of upcoming activities, or accounts of events that might be of interest to readers of R&A. The source of the information must be included with each submission.