

The Newsletter of the

Herpetologist's League

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1997 HL ANNUAL MEETING: 26 JUNE - 2 JULY IN SEATTLE

HL's 45th Annual Meeting promises to be a good one! HL will be meeting together with ASIH and SSAR so there should be plenty of stimulating herpetophilic conversation to keep you occupied in the break area and at social events. Oh, and for those interested in attending the sessions, there should be lots of great papers, too!

In addition to the contributed papers and posters, at least four symposia should be of interest to HL members. Symposia topics include 1) Nuclear DNA and the Evolutionary genetics of fishes, amphibians and reptiles, 2) Ecological processes: Insights from field experiments and natural history (celebrating the career and contributions of Margaret McBride Stewart), 3) Comparisons and current uses of phylogenetic approaches to ichthyology and herpetology, and 4) The chemical ecology of predator/prey relationships: Fishes, amphibians, and reptiles.

For more information see the HL website (<http://fishead.by.ua.edu/HL/HL/html>). At the very least, you should check out the meeting logo, which looks pretty cool in color.

LAST CALL: SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS FOR THE 1998 HL MEETING IN GUELPH

NEW JOURNAL: AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION

Scope.-ARC is an international peer reviewed journal devoted to the worldwide preservation and management of amphibian and reptilian diversity.

Goals.-1) Provide a forum for scientists and others to publish data pertinent to amphibian and reptile conservation, 2) Report on herpetological conservation efforts worldwide, 3) Assure the protection of all taxa of amphibians and reptiles, particularly those in immediate need, 4) Report on the numbers of animals (individuals, populations, and species) in captivity, the wildlife trade, and nature, 5) Increase our knowledge of the biology of species, 6) build a network of individuals to expand conservation efforts, and 7) Continue the growth of the journal.

Audience.-ARC is intended for a wide readership from the amateur to the professional.

Focus.-ARC concentrates on publishing timely information in the form of feature articles, reviews, reports, short communications, columns, commentaries, book reviews, and news and notes.

Description and Frequency.-ARC is published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall, and winter. The journal measures 8 x 10.75", and is in color and black & white with a gloss finish.

Publisher and Subscriptions. ARC is published by Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, 2255 North University

The Herpetologists' League sponsors thematic symposia for its annual meetings. Any League member may submit a proposal for a symposium for the upcoming meeting by sending a proposal application to the chair of the Symposium Committee. Official sponsorship by the Herpetologists' League allows for the scheduling and announcement of the symposium in the meeting program and registration materials. In addition, a small amount of money (a maximum of \$2000) is available to support sponsored symposia.

Applicants should provide the following information: 1) a statement outlining the name/topic of the symposium, the scope of the planned presentations, the relevance of the topic to herpetology and, if appropriate, to the particular meeting (e.g., timeliness or geographic appropriateness), and the goal of the symposium (not to exceed one single-spaced page of text); 2) a tentative outline of speakers (including presentation of titles and institutional affiliations) indicating the time to be allocated for each presentation and the total length of the symposium (e.g., half-day, full-day). Only speakers that have indicated their willingness to participate should be listed. This should be accompanied by a short (one paragraph) statement explaining how the particular slate of speakers and presentations meets the goals of the symposium as a whole. Note that two or more individuals should be involved with organizing each symposium and that the application should include the addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of these organizers. 3) a budget (not to exceed \$2000) detailing the proposed use of funds requested from the Herpetologists' League. Appropriate expenses include full or partial support of travel, housing and/or registration expenses for symposium participants.

Sponsorship by the Herpetologists' League does not guarantee financial support and symposia may be sponsored and funded at a level lower than that requested by the applicants.

Interested persons should submit their proposals no later than 26 May 1997 to: Aaron M. Bauer, Herpetologists' League Symposium Chair, Department of Biology,

Parkway Suite 15, Provo, Utah 84604-7506, USA. Annual subscription rates are: Individual = \$18.00 US, Institutional = \$36.00 US. Subscriptions outside the US must include an additional \$7.00 for shipping.

Call for Authors.-ARC invites authors to submit manuscripts of high quality for publication that inform, explain, report new discoveries, offer solutions, present new information, and summarize research, projects, and areas of interest. ARC is particularly interested in manuscripts dealing with topical reviews, zoo biology, population status (both in captivity and nature), rare, threatened, and endangered species, human exploitation, resource management, geographic distribution, herpetofaunal diversity, area checklists, exploration and discover, all areas of conservation biology, and articles that relate animals to specific geographical locations and countries.

Communications. It is recommended that all correspondence be conducted via e-mail whenever possible (ARC@byu.edu). All other correspondence should be directed to: Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, 2255 North University Parkway Suite 15, Provo, Utah 84604-7506 USA.

INFO REQUEST _ PIG-NOSED TURTLES

Information/participation request: I am gathering information on currently living or historically-held pig-nosed turtles and New Guinea Plateless turtles. If you or your institution currently or historically held a pig-nosed turtle or received/used tissue, blood or other samples from this species, I would like to include that information in a new American Zoo Association-approved studbook for the North American Region. Turtles that never reproduced or were turned over to a museum collection are valuable inclusions to studbooks. Likewise, if your institution

GRAD SCHOOL NEWS... INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY PROGRAM AT NORTHERN

ARIZONA UNIV.: FEATURING THE LABORATORY OF KIISA NISHIKAWA

The Integrative Physiology Group at Northern Arizona University (NAU) includes five faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences. These faculty are Drs. CHERYL DYER (lipid metabolism and steroidogenesis), STEVEN HEMPLEMAN (respiratory physiology and neurophysiology), STAN LINDSTEDT (muscle and exercise physiology), KIISA NISHIKAWA (functional morphology and behavioral neurobiology), and CATHY PROPPER (behavioral endocrinology). We offer a variety of excellent interdisciplinary research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of endocrinology, muscle physiology, behavior, and neuroscience. The group currently supports 19 master's students, 9 Ph.D. students and 3 postdoctoral fellows (many, but not all of the folks are herpetologists) with a yearly operating budget of about \$450,000 from extramural funds, including grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The theme of research in Kiisa Nishikawa's laboratory is the evolution of behavior in amphibians and reptiles. For the past 10 years, Kiisa's research has focused on the evolution of prey capture in frogs. What goes on in a frog's brain between when it sees a bug and when it "goes for it"? How do anuran species differ in the biomechanics of the feeding apparatus and the neural control of prey capture? These studies involve behavioral experiments, high speed video motion analysis, anatomical studies, electromyography and neurophysiology.

Though still focused on the evolution of behavior, the research projects that have been conducted by students in Kiisa's laboratory are much more diverse in terms of taxa (salamanders, caecilians, lizards, snakes and turtles), behavior patterns (feeding, locomotion, and agonistic behavior) and conceptual approaches, including ecology,

would be interested in receiving a deceased pig-nosed turtle or a living specimen, I will include your interest in the studbook. All participants will receive a copy of the studbook when it is completed. _William H. Espenshade III, Pig-nosed turtle, *Carettochely insculpta*, North America Region Studbook Keeper, The Zoological Society of Philadelphia, 3400 West Girart Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196, Phone: 215-243-1100 ext. 3262, FAX: 215-243-5385, e-mail: WHE3@aol.com.

ASC SURVEYS OF RESEARCH SYSTEMATICS COLLECTIONS AND INDIVIDUAL TAXONOMIC RESEARCHERS: YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!

The Assoc. of Systematics Collections has developed a Survey of Research Systematics Collections and Information, the results of which will be made available to users of systematics resources over the world wide web. We hope that your Collection will participate in the survey, so that information about your Collection and its resources can reach colleagues worldwide. Participation in the database will give your institution higher visibility with government agencies and the public, and may lead to new opportunities. It will help ASC document needs and develop policy options for support of collections by governments and the private sector.

The on-line database is a modern approach to providing the same kind of data ASC has collected in the past. In fact, responses to this survey will eventually become part of a longitudinal series of data. You may respond to the survey by contacting ASC for a form, filling it out and mailing or faxing it back. Or PREFERABLY, you may go to the ASC's web site (<http://www.ascoll.org/SURVEY/>), download the survey, fill it out, and send it to ASC.

morphology, behavior, and neurobiology.

Recent graduates from Kiisa's laboratory include: CURT ANDERSON (currently a post-doc in the laboratory of Joyce Keifer in the Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology in the Medical School at the University of South Dakota, Curt is working on the neurobiology of classical conditioning in turtles) whose doctoral research at NAU investigated the interactions between vision and proprioception in the control of prey capture in frogs; STEPHEN DEBAN (currently a Chancellor's Fellow and doctoral candidate in David Wake's laboratory in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley) who as an undergraduate at NAU investigated the prey capture behavior of the green tree frog, *Hyla cinerea*; and DALE RITTER (currently a doctoral candidate in David Carrier's laboratory at Brown University) whose master's research at NAU investigated lateral bending of the trunk during locomotion in lizards.

At present, the laboratory is full to overflowing. From June-December, Dr. SUSAN PETERS was here on sabbatical from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She worked on contractile properties of the tongue protractor and retractor muscles of frogs. Now back in Charlotte, she is preparing manuscripts and making plans to begin studies of motor units in these muscles. Post-Doc JAMES BIRCH came to NAU in 1995 from the University of Michigan. A morphometrician, Jim has been working on the ontogeny and phylogeny of skull shape in frogs using thin plate spline methods. He has also made a foray into video motion analysis and is working on motor learning in frogs (and learning that there's a whole lot more stuff to measure on living than on preserved specimens!). All three doctoral students plan to complete their degrees this spring. For her doctoral research, LUCIE GRAY has studied the ecomorphology of prey capture in frogs. She has compared the natural diets, feeding behavior and feeding performance of several anuran species that differ in mechanisms of tongue protraction. This research brought her to Panama and Costa Rica, where she

Each administratively-separate collection is to complete the survey and return it to ASC. Although ASC's initial distribution of the survey has focused on North American institutions, ASC is willing to include information from institutions outside the region.

The collections resources database is one of two that are sponsored by the Biological Resources Division of the USGS (formerly the national Biological Service) in cooperation with a group of 6 US federal agencies and the Smithsonian-NMNH, which compose the Interagency Taxonomic Information System (ITIS). Many federal agencies and other resource management organizations have a strong need for taxonomic information or services that are scientifically credible and readily accessible. The Research Collections and Information Database (RCID) will provide an entry point for these many users.

The first database, the Taxonomic Resources and Expertise Directory (TRED), has also been distributed, and the responses are now being entered into the database. TRED is designed to contain information about individual systematists and taxonomists needed by those seeking taxonomic expertise. It will be available for searching on the Internet at <http://www.itis.usda.gov/itis>. If you have not provided data for the TRED, it is not too late. Please call up the ASC web site for information and a copy of the survey.

Send the complete Research Systematics Collections survey and TRED forms to: The Assoc., of Systematics Collections, 1725 K St. NW Suite 601, Washington, DC 20006-1401, Phone: 202-835-9050, FAX: 202-835-7334, e-mail: asc@ascoll.org.

- SPECIAL COURSES -

A lecture, laboratory, and field course on the biology of larval amphibians will be taught at the Highlands Biological

conducted field studies of natural diets and struck up a collaboration with Dr. STAN RAND at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. JAMES O'REILLY's research, while somewhat eclectic, has attracted much attention of late. He's published two papers in *Nature* in the last year on caecilians. His paper on the protrusible eyes of some bizarre African caecilians was listed in *Discover* magazine as one of the top 100 science stories for 1996! His article on burrowing in caecilians is due to appear soon. For his doctoral dissertation, Jim has been working on the scaling of movement with body size using prey capture in toads as a model system. At NAU, ERIKA WILTENMUTH has worked on the evolution of agonistic behavior in *Ensatina* salamanders for her MS degree, and is currently studying hydric behavior of plethodontid salamanders from the eastern and western US for her Ph.D. She has found that, although they live in drier environments than the eastern species, western plethodontids are no more resistant to dehydration than the eastern ones. Apparently, the western species are able to survive in the drier western habitats by finding refuge in moist microhabitats, making these moisture patches of critical importance in their survival. For this work, she recently won the best student paper award in animal behavior at the national meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology in Albuquerque, NM in December 1996.

Two master's students also plan to complete their degrees this spring. ERIKA NOWAK has studied the effects of relocation on rattlesnakes at Montezuma Castle National Monument, AZ, and CYNTHIA VALDEZ has studied the modulation of feeding behavior in response to prey type in frogs. In addition, Cynthia is currently investigating the ultrastructure of frog tongue muscles. An additional three MS students, soon to have the lab to themselves, are in their first year of the program. RENEE BENALLY is working on the ontogeny of feeding behavior in toads, TRACI GLEASON is working on the effects of practice on motor learning during feeding in toads, and JAY MEYERS is working on prey capture and biomechanics of the muscles

Stations 2-13 June 1997. Instructors are Richard Wassersug, Ray Semlitsch, Richard Bruce, and Travis Ryan. Three semester hours credit is available at the advanced undergraduate/graduate level through either Western Carolina University or the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For further information contact Highlands Biological Station, P.O. Box 580, Highlands, NC 28741. Phone: 704-526-2797, e-mail: bruce@wcu.edu.

- PUBLICATION NOTICES -

Atlas of Amphibians in Tennessee. By William H. Redmond and A. Floyd Scott. 1996. The Center for Field Biology, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN 37044. 94 pages, 8_X11" format (paperback). An up-to-date summary of the distributions, taxonomy, and known habitat requirements of the 21 species of frogs and 45 species of salamanders known to occur in Tennessee. Also includes sections on: the history of herpetology in Tennessee; the state's physiography, climate, drainages, soils, vegetation, and ecoregions; and questionable and erroneous species reports for Tennessee. \$7.00 + \$1.00 shipping and handling. Submit orders to: Publications Secretary, The Center for Field Biology, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN 37044.

The Biology of Xenopus. Edited by R. C. Tinsley and H. R. Kobel. 1996. Oxford University Press. 440 pages. \$78.00 (cloth). This volume contains the following chapters: 1) Introductory comments: *Xenopus* as a laboratory animal (Gurdon); 2) The extant species (Kobel, Loumont, and Tinsley); 3) Geographical distribution and ecology (Tinsley, Loumont, and Kobel); 4) Natural hybridization between *X. l. laevis* and *X. gilli* in the south-western Cape Province, South Africa (Picker, Harrison, and Wallace); 5) Reproductive capacity of experimental *X. gilli* x *X. l. laevis* hybrids

of lizard tongues.

KIISA's current research is focused at the interface between functional morphology and neurobiology. The goal of her current NSF grant is to study the biomechanics of prey capture in frogs using a variety of techniques including computer modeling. After 10 years of college teaching, KIISA is ready for a sabbatical!! In the fall semester of 1997, she will work at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis in the laboratory of MARTHA FLANDERS, where she will attempt to find similarities between motor control of frog tongues and human arms. In the spring of 1998, she will visit Duke University where she plans to make 3-dimensional working models of frog tongues in collaboration with STEVE WAINWRIGHT in the Bio-Design Studio. Steve and Kiisa also plan to "investigate" experiential learning techniques for students of all ages and diverse cultures.

Conferences, Conventions, Conclaves

THE HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE ON PLETHODONTID SALAMANDERS

The Highlands Conference on Plethodontid Salamanders will be held in June 1998 in Highlands, North Carolina, and is sponsored by the Highlands Biological Station. This meeting will follow the tradition of the First (1972), Second (1982), and Third (1992) Conferences in exploring new directions in plethodontid research. The Conference will feature invited papers, evening poster sessions, and a Symposium. All interested are encouraged to participate. Future announcements concerning Conference dates, a call for papers, and registration information will be sent only to those on our mailing list. If you attended the 1992 Conference, and if your address has not changed, you will receive announcements automatically. To be placed on the mailing list, or to up-date your address, please send your name, address, and numbers (phone, FAX, e-mail) to: Plethodontid Conference, Highlands Biological Station, P.O. Box 580, Highlands, NC 28741; or, send an e-mail message to Judy Hill (HBS Admin. Asst.) at: JHILL@wpoff.wcu.edu.

(Kobel); 6) Feral populations of *Xenopus* outside Africa (Tinsley and McCoid); 7) Sensory perception and the lateral line system in the clawed frog, *Xenopus* (Elepfandt); 8) Sound production and acoustic communication in *Xenopus borealis* (Yager); 9) Sexual differentiation in *Xenopus laevis* (Kelley); 10) Underwater acoustics and hearing in the clawed frog, *Xenopus* (Elepfandt); 11) The biology of *Xenopus* tadpoles (Wassursug); 12) Control of thyroid hormones and their involvement in haemoglobin transition during *Xenopus* and *Rana* metamorphosis (Just and Kraus-Just); 13) Parasites of *Xenopus* (Tinsley); 14) Skin secretions of *Xenopus laevis* (Kreil); 15) Immune system of *Xenopus*: T cell biology (Horton, Horton, and Ritchie); 16) The immune system of *Xenopus*: with special reference to B cell development and immunoglobulin genes (du Pasquier, Wilson, and Robert); 17) An overview of the anuran fossil record (Sanchiz and Ro_ek); 18) the fossil record of the Pipidae (B-ez); 19) Historical constraints and morphological novelties in the evolution of the skeletal system of pipid frogs (Anura: Pipidae) (Trueb); 20) Molecular approaches to the phylogeny of *Xenopus* (Graf); 21) Allopolyploid speciation (Kobel); 22) Evolutionary inferences from host and parasite co-speciations (Tinsley).

Amniote Origins: Completing the Transition to Land. by Stuart S. Sumida and Karen L. M. Martin (Editors). 1996. Academic Press. 510 pages. \$74.95 (hard cover). The chapters are: 1) An integrated approach to the origin of amniotes: completing the transition to land (Martin and Sumida); 2) A new perspective on tetrapod phylogeny (Laurin and Reisz); 3) Crown-clades, key characters and taxonomic stability: when is an amniote not an amniote (Lee and Spencer); 4) Biogeography of primitive amniotes (Bermin, Sumida, and Lombard); 5) The late Paleozoic atmosphere and the ecological and evolutionary physiology of

Herpeto-trivia:

Micrablepharus atticolus is a newly described species of lizard from Brazil. The name was chosen because individuals of this species are frequently found in the nests of leaf-cutter ants (*Atta laevigata*). _ Rodrigues, M. T. 1996. *Herpetologica* 52:535-541.

The Walt Dineen Society announces its First Annual Meeting to be held May 22-24, 1997 in North Miami, Florida. The meeting will be an informal forum for the communication of scientific information on the ecosystems of South Florida among scientists and policy makers. Researchers and students in the natural, physical, and social sciences are encouraged to participate. Abstract submittal deadline is 31 March 1997. For information, contact Dan Childers at 305-348-3101 or via e-mail at childers@fiu.edu; or contact Frank Mazzotti at 954-370-3725. Information is also available at our internet web site:

<http://www.fiu.edu/~glades/everglades/dineen>.

The Animal Behavior Society: The annual Animal Behavior Society meetings will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, 21-26 June 1997. Special symposia include "Sperm Competition", "Phylogeny & Sexual Selection", "Behavior in Zoo Conservation", and a workshop on "Applied Animal Behavior". For further information contact Dr. Art Popper, Popper@zool.umd.edu or see <http://www.bsos.umd.edu.cebh.abs97>.

More Herpeto-trivia: Ovarian eggs of the Japanese salamander *Hynobius nigrescens* are mint green, perhaps to provide camouflage in algae-laden ponds. - Hasumi, M. 1996. *Herpetologica* 52:598- 605.

ASC 1997 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1997 ASC (Assoc. of Systematics Collections) Annual Meeting will be held in

tetrapods (Braham, Aguilar, Dudley, and Gans); 6) Origin of the amniote feeding mechanisms: experimental analysis of outgroup clades (Lauder and Gillis); 7) the amniote transition and the discovery of herbivory (Hotton, Olson, and Beerbower); 8) Evolution of the amniote egg (Packard and Seymour); 9) Morphology and evolution of the egg of oviparous amniotes (Stewart); 10) The role of the skin in the origin of amniotes: permeability barrier, protective covering, and mechanical support (Frolich); 11) Locomotor features of taxa spanning the origin of amniotes (Sumida); 12) Water balance and the physiology of the amniote transition (Martin and Nagy); 13) Reconstructing ancestral trait values using squared-change parsimony: plasma osmolarity at the amniote transition (Garland, Martin, and Diaz-Uriarte).

Bibliographie der G, rtelechsen und Schildechsen (Reptilia: Sauria: Cordylidae & Gerrhosauridae).

[Bibliography of the girdled lizards and plated lizards] By K. Adolphs. 1996. 255 pages. Squamata Verlag. DEM 39.80 (paperback). Lists and describes more than 1000 quotations. With a comprehensive systematic index and the current taxonomy of the families Cordylidae and Gerrhosauridae (with synonyms). Contact: Squamata Verlag, Pastor-Hochhard-Str. 8, 53757 Sankt Augustin, Germany (e-mail: Kadolphs@aol.com).

Snakes of Pakistan. By Muhammad Sharif Khan, 1993. Urdu Science Board, 299-Upper Mall, Lahore. 208 pages plus 50 colored photographs, more than 100 line drawings. \$30 (hardback). It is the first book on the snakes of Pakistan in Urdu. It includes the latest information on the ecology, habits, and distribution of all snake taxa so far recorded from Pakistan. Includes a review of the scientific literature on the snakes of Pakistan, the evolutionary history of the snakes, notes on snake morphology, keys for identification of various Pakistani taxa,

Atlanta, GA on 24-26 April 1997. The meeting will immediately precede the 1997 meeting of the Amer. Assoc. of Museums (AAM). The Meeting will be held jointly for the first time with the Assoc. of Science Museum Directors (ASMD).

The theme of the meeting, "The Collections-based Mission of Natural History Collections", is meant to focus on the core mission of institutions with natural history collections, which is to maintain those collections for use in research and the education of a broad public constituency. The connection between the collections, research derived from the collections, and public programming will be explored by several nationally-known speakers, and will be the subject of a workshop session co-sponsored by the AAM Committee. Anyone interested in joining the committee may attend. We hope that the committee will have strong liaison among AAM's Education Committee and other groups such as the Assoc. of Science and Tech. Centers (ASTC).

The meeting should appeal particularly to the many new directors of natural history and science museums who do not have a background in collections and research, but who must garner support for the collections in the outside world. It should also appeal to those scientific curators, collections managers, and educators who wish to work together to provide the public with a better view of the purpose, challenges, and exciting new knowledge that are being generated by collections. Museum trustees would also benefit from attending. Finally, those who represent non-collecting science institutions may wish to participate in order to gain perspective on the differences between their institutions and collecting institutions.

In addition to the Theme Session and workshop, there will be two other short sessions. One will complete discussion of ASC's strategic plan, prior to a vote on the plan at ASC's business meeting. Another will bring telecommunications and database experts from OUTSIDE the systematics collections community to provide us a better context in which to discuss our database needs and progress. Each of the four sessions will

poisonous snakes of Pakistan and their identification, the snake bite problem in Pakistan, snakes and human civilizations, and Indo-Pakistan snake folklore.

Newts and Salamanders of Europe. By Richard A. Griffiths. 1996. T. & A. D. Poyser Natural History Ltd. 188 pages, 32 color plates. 25.00 British pounds (cloth). Marketed by Harcourt Brace & Company Ltd.

Amphibians of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. By Charlotte C. Corkran and Chris Thoms. 1996. Lone Pine Publishing. 175 pages. \$16.95 (paperback).

Venomous Snakes: Ecology, Evolution and Snakebite. Edited by Roger Thorpe, Wolfgang Wüster, and Anita Malhotra. 1996. Oxford University Press. 276 pages. \$145.00 (cloth).

Morphologic and genetic studies on the European plethodontid salamanders: taxonomic inferences (genus Hydromantes). By B. Lanza, V. Caputo, G. Nascetti, and L. Bullini. 1995. 366 pages, 64 figures plus 60 color plates. L. 150.000+postage. Contact: Museo Regionale Di Scienze Naturali, Via Giolitti, 36-10123 Torino, Italy.

Long-term Studies of Vertebrate Communities. Edited by Martin L. Cody and Jeffrey A. Smallwood. 1996. Academic Press. 597 pages. \$69.95 (Hardback). This volume contains 17 chapters, four of which are devoted to communities of amphibians and reptiles.

Handbook of Ethological Methods, 2nd edition. By Philip N. Lehner. 1996. Cambridge University Press. 672 pages. \$69.95 (hardback).

A Dictionary of Genetics, 5th edition. By Robert C. King and William D. Stansfield. 1996. Oxford University Press. 439 pages. \$24.95 (paperback), \$45.00 (cloth).

last _ day. Information on hotels and registration forms will be available shortly from ASC. Contact us at our web site, <http://www.ascoll.org>, ask for information by e-mail to asc@ascoll.org, or wait for our mailing to members, if you are an ASC representative. But do plan to attend NOW!

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

The Everglades Research and Education Center of the University of Florida has a graduate assistantship for an M.S. (2 year) or Ph.D. (3 year) student beginning the Fall of 1997. Research will involve evaluating the wildlife relations of farm lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and their potential role in the restoration of the Greater Everglades/South Florida ecosystem. Stipend is \$16,000 per year with waiver of the out-of-state portion of tuition. Off campus housing for field work will be provided. Contact Frank J. Mazzotti, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Everglades Research and Education Center, 3200 E. Palm Beach Road, POB 8003, Belle Glade, FL 33430-8003. Phone: 561-996-3062 ext. 160; FAX: 561-996-0339.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION STUDY GRANTS IN HERPETOLOGY

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History is pleased to announce a new grant to support herpetological research by graduate students and foreign scientists. The grant is intended to defray the costs of transportation and lodging associated with visiting and using the collection. The Carnegie's herpetological collection contains more than 195,000 preserved specimens, including one of the largest collections of turtles, and extensive holdings from the West Indies, Mexico, South America, Spain, Africa, India, and the Philippines. Applicants should send the following, in duplicate: 1) a description of the

POLICY FOR ADVERTISEMENT OF NEW BOOKS _ As a service to our readers, Communications is pleased to publish announcements of new books of interest to HL members. However, we do not accept formal "advertisements". We will include the "standard" information (title; author; publisher; price (HB/PB); no. of pages, maps, illustrations), plus, optionally, a very brief 1-2 sentence description of the book and an address for orders. This information should be sent to the editor of Communications. Announcements will be included as space allows and content may be edited.

COMMUNIQUE...S TO COMMUNICATIONS

Target dates for distribution of Communications are March and September. Herpetologically-relevant announcements are included as space allows. Send submissions/questions/comments to: Dr. Alicia Mathis, Dept. of Biology, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65804-0095. Phone: 417-836-5699; FAX: 417-836-4204; e-mail: sam477f@vma.smsu.edu.

proposed research (including its expected significance and the justification for visiting Carnegie), not to exceed two pages; 2) literature cited; 3) budget; 4) CV. Students should also arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent. Awards will be made twice a year. Deadlines for application materials are 15 April and 15 November. Send applications to "Collection Study Grants in Herpetology", Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie Museum of natural History, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080. For more information contact Ellen J. Censky (censkye@clpgh.org; wiensj@clpgh.org; 412-622-5520; FAX 412-622-8837).

**NEW WEB SITE: ENVIRONMENTAL
DEGREE PROGRAMS -INCLUDING AN
OPPORTUNITY TO LIST YOUR
PROGRAM**

The Committee for the National Institute for the Environment announces their new Directory of Higher Education Environmental Programs located at <http://www.cnie.org>. This Directory contains detailed information on undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary programs and should be a great resource for any student, or academic advisor. If you would like to have your program included on the list, fill out the survey form included on the site (a \$100 donation is requested to defray costs). - Joe Mitchell, HL Representative to the CNIE.

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