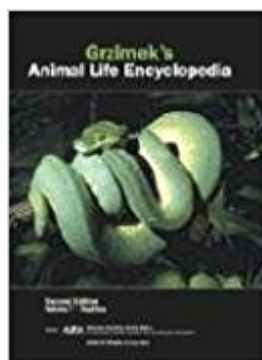


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Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Vol. 7: Reptiles, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Book by Hutchins, Michael

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The original Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia (1975), Reptiles, was both a masterpiece and a classic of the new age of herpetological literature. That is, it was extremely well produced, included considerable useful (often new) information, presented (mostly) dazzling illustrations, and was an edited manuscript, meaning that sections were written by established authorities for each group. IN COMPARISON the 2003 2nd edition is almost. The text is sketchy and inconsistent from section (and author) to section. Though it is again a compilation by many leading authorities, the text is bland, devoid of the "grit" a professional or experienced amateur would want, and not quite right for the rank amateur/beginner. Yet the editorial and writing teams have produced some good textual material and include many then-new facets of the broad field of reptile biology. It is not easy to be editor of a group of authoritative authors whose writing talents may range from sub-abysmal to sublime, so it is difficult to fault any particular person or persons with the undulating quality of the book's prose. The illustrations include some fine photos (but usually printed in tiny format) and cartoonish paintings that look like term projects for average 2nd year art students. This is NOT what I paid for, nor, I strongly suspect, what Prof. Dr Grzimek would want to associate his name. The bright spot for him is he was not alive to see the 2nd edition. Why is a professional group such as the

the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) sponsoring such a volume? To steal from Kipling, "All the world wonders." Ironically, given all that we have learned about reptiles since the first edition, the original is still the (far) better book. With all the excellent post 2001 books on herpetology now available, I suggest that you spend your money on something else; your alternative would almost certainly be better.

This book was needed to complete my collection. I recommend these books to everyone I know. Highly recommended! Thank You!

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