

BOOK REVIEW: ASIAN PITVIPERS

By A. Gumprecht, F. Tillack, N.L. Orlov, A. Captain and S. Ryabov, 2004.

368 pp., approx. 1200 colour photographs

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Sections:

Foreword

Acknowledgments

Introduction (materials and methods, abbreviations, glossary)

English common names

Table with selected pholidotic data

Annotated check list (currently valid nomenclature and systematics, citation of the original description, information on type material, distribution, as well as explanatory comments)

Colour plates (including detail and habitat photos)

Literature

Systematic index

Photographic credits

The photography in this book is simply breathtaking and worth the purchase price alone. However, the book is also a tremendously valuable resource. Type locality for each species is given as is the location for the type material. This makes any changes in taxonomy very easy to reconcile. The taxonomy is rigorous and precise. Included is a table cross-referencing the *Trimeresurus* complex with the recently proposed splitting of the genus into multiple genera by Malhotra and Thorpe in 2004, based upon genetic data combined with almost unparalleled variation in hemipene morphology. This book is strongly recommended for anyone with an interest in this diverse group of venomous snakes and will be of use to all levels of education.

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