



Herpetology – Spring 2009

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Lecture Outline

- I. Course Information
- II. What is Herpetology
- III. Brief history of the field

I. Course Information

- A. Basic Information, syllabus, schedule, etc. – <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/dever/herp>
- B. What is expected?
- C. Why this class?

II. What is Herpetology???

Herpo = Greek word for “crawling thing”

- A. Amphibia
- B. Reptilia
- C. People's perceptions

A. Class Amphibia

Amphibians (~6,190 species)

- ✓ Caecilians
- ✓ Salamanders
- ✓ Frogs & Toads

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Amphibia.html>

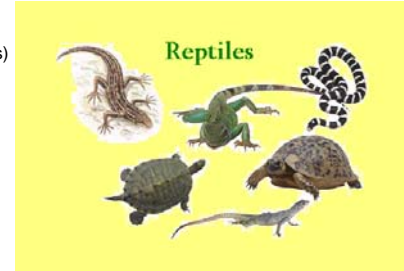


B. Class Reptilia

Reptiles (~8,600 species)

- ✓ Turtles
- ✓ Lizards
- ✓ Snakes
- ✓ Crocodilians

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/pictures/Reptilia.html>



C. People's perceptions:



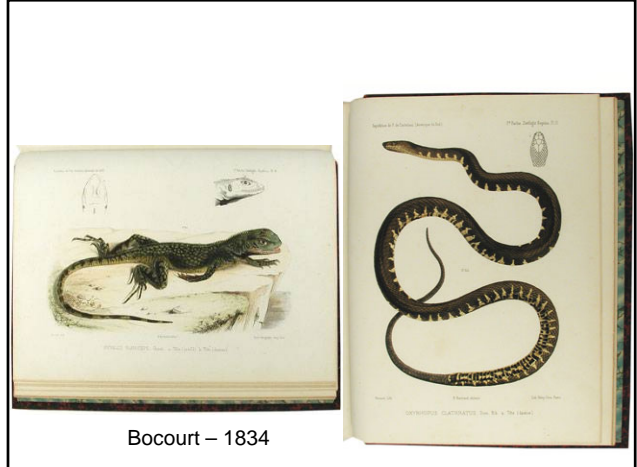
III. Brief History of the Field

- The Europeans
- Herpetology in the U.S.
- Current Centers of Study
- Herp Web Resources

A. Herpetology – born in France

Bernard Lacépède: (1756-1825)

✓Wrote the first comprehensive world summary of amphibians and reptiles



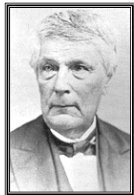
Bocourt – 1834

B. Students of the French – U.S. Herpetologists

Thomas Say

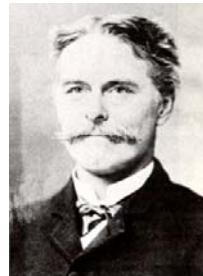


✓published a *Catalog of American Turtles* (1824).



John Holbrook

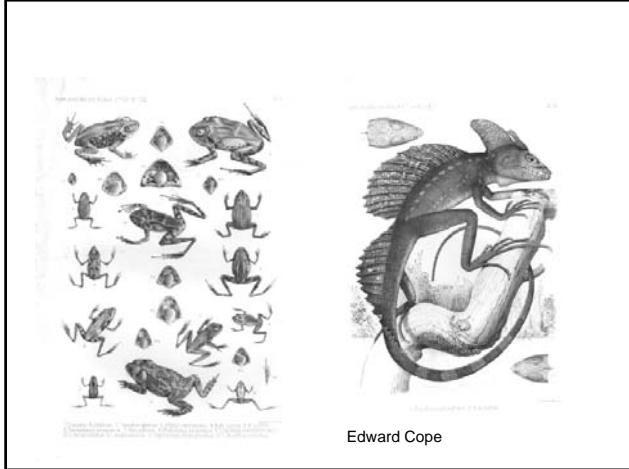
✓Wrote “North American Herpetology”
5 Volumes: 1836-1842
✓Known as the Father of American Herpetology




Edward Cope

Most Important Works:
The Batrachia of North America (1889)
Classification of the Ophidia (1895)
The Crocodylians, Lizards and Snakes of North America (1900)

➤ Most important American herpetologist of the 19th Century.



**Herpetology, not just a man's field –
Doris Cochran: (1898-1968)**



- ✓ A specialist in Neotropical herpetology,
- ✓ Acted as Curator of Herpetology at the Smithsonian.
- ✓ Author of >90 papers she also wrote:
Herpetology of Hispaniola (1941)
Living Amphibians of the World (1961)

C. Centers of Herpetology Research

- University of Michigan
– http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/rep_amph/index.htm
- University of Florida
– <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/>
- University of Kansas
– <http://www.nhm.ku.edu/herpetology/>
- University of California, Berkeley
– <http://mvz.berkeley.edu/>

Museums – important repositories of specimen

<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/>

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<http://fm1.fieldmuseum.org/collections/search.cgi?dest=herps>

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
<http://www.calacademy.org/research/herpetology/>

BIOONE – Online journal resource: www.bioone.org

**Important
Herpetological Journals**



ASIH



Herpetologists League



SSAR



SSAR

D. Herp Web resources

- <http://www.jcu.edu.au/school/tbiol/zoology/herp/remote.shtml>
- Center for North American Herpetology
<http://www.cnah.org/index.asp>
- Amphibian species of the world-
<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php>
- AmphibiaWeb – <http://www.amphibiaweb.org/index.html>
- Global Amphibian Assessment -
<http://www.globalamphibians.org/>
- Herpnet - <http://herpnet.org/>
- Extra links - http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/dever/herp_extras.htm