

say, but if the translator and/or final editor could have cleaned up the text we'd be spared these irritations. There are other glitches too, like the inaccurate statement "venom of elapids causes little if any pain...even slight edema is rare". Sri Lanka is sometimes called Ceylon and so on, throughout the book. These are minor problems in what is otherwise a classic in the genre of snake husbandry books. The photographs are

excellent, printing and binding of the highest standard, in general a book worth owning, especially if you are a "hot snakes" person.

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A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO AMPHIBIANS IN THAILAND

by Tanya Chan-ard. 2003.

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Available from: Se-Education Publ. Co. Ltd., Nation Tower, 19th floor, 46/87-90 Bangna-Trat Rd., Bangna, Bangkok 10260, Thailand; <http://www.se-ed.com>. Price: 160 Bahts.

This nice opus is the second comprehensive illustrated book dedicated to the amphibians of the Kingdom of Thailand, after that of the late Wirot Nutphund [= Nutphand] (2001). Its pocket-sized format and good quality binding make it a very practical tool in the field. The book includes a table of contents (pp. 4-5), a brief presentation of each amphibian family in Thailand (pp. 6-7), an introductory part with details on amphibian anatomy, biology and people-amphibians relationships (pp. 9-28), identification keys to orders and families, and, within families, a key to the genera and a brief description of each genus and a list of the species it contains (pp. 29-70), species accounts (pp. 72-165), three indices (Thai common names, English common names and Latin names) and a bibliography (pp. 166-174). On the last page, a short biography of the author is given.

All 141 newt, caecilian and anuran species currently known to occur in Thailand are represented. Species are arranged at three per double page, each species account on the left facing its corresponding picture/drawing on the right page. Each species account contains the names in Thai, English and Latin, a brief text giving details on color and size, etc., and a map of Thailand showing the distribution of the species

within the country. Four pictograms (explained on p. 71) are used to qualify the main biotope(s) inhabited by each taxon. Synonyms are not listed, except for *Megophrys lateralis* (still listed as such by Chan-ard et al., 1999), presented as a synonym of *M. major* (p. 84), or, erroneously, of *M. longipes* (p. 40). All species are illustrated in colour: 18 by a high-quality drawing, and all others by an outstanding picture, sometimes accompanied by a drawing or an additional picture; for 17 species, the additional illustration is that of the tadpole. Most pictures were taken by the author himself, and all pictures were taken in Thailand, except for the *Microhyla annamensis*, which was photographed in Laos (Chan-ard, pers. comm.). The outstanding drawings are all from the hand of Anantapong Poolsawasdi, who based the drawing on (pictures of) Thai specimens, except for *Leptolalax gracilis*, *Rana luctuosa*, *R. montivaga* and *Phyllautus petersi* (Chan-ard, pers. comm.). *Rana montivaga*, mentioned for Thailand only from Khao Soi Dao, Chanthaburi Province, was included in the guide on the basis of a personal communication from Jarujin Nabhitabhata who was himself informed by Doyle Damman (who contributed some pictures for the field guide) that the species occurs on that mountain; *Rana*

montivaga is actually the only Thai species that was not examined by Tanya Chan-ard, and that population might in fact belong to the genus *Huia* (Chan-ard, pers. comm.). It should also be carefully compared with *Rana faber*, recently described from the Cardamom Mountains in western Cambodia and very likely to occur in hilly extreme SE Thailand (B. L. Stuart, pers. comm.).

In a recent checklist of the amphibians of Thailand, Nabhitabhata et al. (2004) based the record of *Rana montivaga* in Thailand (Khao Soi Dao), on "Nabhitabhata (per. com.)". A few comments on the differences between the present species list and the last one provided for Thailand by the author (Chan-ard et al., 1999) have to be made, in order to avoid future listings of deleted species names, since these deletions were not explicitly explained in the present opus. These changes and deletions are detailed below, and were all confirmed by personal communication from the author. What the author called *Rana chapaensis* is what was listed as *Rana adenopleura* [sic] by Chan-ard et al. (1999). Additionally, from Chan-ard et al.'s (1999) list to the present opus, *Amolops afghanus* was replaced by *A. marmoratus*, *Rana chalconota* by *R. raniiceps*, and *Rhacophorus bimaculatus* by the recently described *R. cyanopunctatus* Manthey & Steiof, 1998. The frog listed as *Rana alticola* by Chan-ard et al. (1999), was here listed as *R. cf. alticola*, because the Thai tadpoles are different from those of India (Chan-ard, pers. obsv. & pers. comm.). *Polypedates megacephalus*, listed in Chan-ard et al. (1999) from Thailand, is not included in the present guide, because the taxonomic status of the Thai population is currently under study. *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*, whose occurrence is only based on the record by Taylor (1962), for which no recent Thai record exists, suggesting that the Thai population had maybe been introduced (as suggested by Taylor, 1962) and failed to become naturalised, is provisionally withdrawn from the national list. This species' account by Nutphund (2001: 107) was wrongly illustrated by a *Limnonectes*. Besides a few species indicated as "sp." and "cf." in the genera *Megophrys*, *Chaperina*, *Amolops*, *Fejervarya*, *Limnonectes*, *Rana* and *Rhacophorus*, whose taxonomic status must be evaluated,

it is to be mentioned that the Thai populations of *Ansonia "malayana"* were recently shown to represent a distinct species, *Ansonia kraensis* Matsui, Khonsue & Nabhitabhata, 2005. *Kaloula aureata* Nutphand, 1989, a species whose status was never clearly established (see Pauwels et al., 1999), is not included in the present guide, although a revision might prove it to be a valid species. The short bibliography includes only 40 references, all pertinent. The most recent reference dates back from 2000. Only one of those references is in Thai, and one might once more regret that not enough effort was made to present the Thai literature, which is numerous but often overlooked by foreign researchers. Since the publication of this guide, Tanya Chan-ard contributed to some additional research papers that must be mentioned here. Leong et al. (2003) published several zoogeographically interesting new anuran records from Phuket Island, and Stuart and Chan-ard (2005) described *Huia melasma*, whose name must replace *H. nasica* for the Thai populations. Besides the poor representation of Thai literature in the bibliography, we have no criticism on this outstanding opus. Even for non-Thai speaking readers, this nearly-exhaustive guide, thanks to its excellent pictures and drawings, is readily usable as an efficient identification tool in the field. Maps, maximal sizes and biotope pictograms are also universally understandable. Its very democratic price, about 4 USD, is another convincing argument. No naturalist has any excuse not to have it in his pocket while herping in Thailand.

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