

PROLOGUE

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Editorial Comment

In this third issue of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, we continue to provide broad-spectrum coverage of turtle and tortoise matters. New sections have been added and older ones enlarged to better serve the chelonian research and conservation communities.

We have increased the number of both full-length Articles and shorter Notes published per issue, with a view towards maintaining rapid turn-around time for the processing and publication of manuscripts. It is our plan to continue to judiciously expand the contents of the journal in order to avoid lengthy lag times for the publication of accepted manuscripts. We have also added a list of Key Words to the Abstracts for Articles. This will improve the dissemination of information via the various indexing services that receive and review the journal. We will standardize these Key Word lists to include pertinent systematic, subject, and distributional data for each article.

Our Commentaries and Reviews section has been greatly expanded. This section has been established as a forum for the exchange of ideas, opinions, position statements, policy recommendations, and other reviews regarding turtle-related matters. Commentaries and points of view expressed in the section generally represent the personal opinions of the authors, and are peer-reviewed only to the extent necessary to help authors avoid clear errors or obvious misrepresentations or to improve the clarity of their submission, while allowing them the freedom to express opinions or conclusions that may be at significant variance with those of other authorities. We hope that controversial opinions expressed in the Commentaries and Reviews section will stimulate responsible replies from other specialists. Shorter position statements, policy recommendations, book reviews, obituaries, and other reports are reviewed only by the editorial staff. The editors reserve the right to reject any submissions that do not meet clear standards of scientific professionalism.

We have also established a new section on Recent Literature. We provide a listing of recent papers, books, reports, and other literature concerning freshwater turtles and tortoises. A similar service for sea turtles is already provided in *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, and such references are therefore not listed here, unless the citation also contains significant information regarding freshwater turtles or tortoises. We include literature appearing from 1993 on, recording references as we identify and catalogue them. We do not list the contents of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*. We make no claims to completeness of our surveys, but hope to provide a reasonably thorough listing of recent literature. All literature citations (including sea turtle references and *CC&B* contents) are also entered into the computerized bibliographic database of all chelonian literature maintained by Chelonian Research Foundation (see *CC&B* 1(1):64). The database (*Bibliotheca Testudinum*, currently ca. 25,000 references) is available for literature searches on behalf of interested researchers, who may contact CRF for assistance. Completeness of the section and the bibliographic database is greatly helped by the submission of literature and citations by authors, as well as bibliographic listings of

scanned titles provided by readers. We encourage the active participation of our subscribers in keeping this section as comprehensive as possible.

Also new is the inclusion of a discrete advertising section in the journal. After sage advice from our Editorial Review Board and Specialist Group Executive Committee, we have elected to accept limited advertising. We believe that this section will be of value through the offering of services, opportunities, and products used in chelonian conservation, education, and research (e.g., equipment for biotelemetry and animal identification, data recording devices, incubation equipment, computer-related products, herpetological literature, books, journals, and meetings, as well as husbandry and zoo-related equipment and supplies, etc., but no ads for the sale of live animals). The advertising will be published in a separate section at the end of the journal and will not be scattered throughout the contents. Our published policy regarding advertisements is as follows: *Commercial advertising is accepted in the journal at the discretion of the Editors. No advertisements for live animals are accepted. Advertisements at variance with the objectives or policies of the journal or its publisher are not accepted, and the Editors or publisher reserve the right to refuse any advertisement.*

In terms of masthead changes, we are pleased to welcome two new members to our Editorial Review Board: Colin J. Limpus and Peter A. Meylan. We are also happy to acknowledge the editorial assistance of Kent R. Beaman (for the Recent Literature section) and Deborah Behler.

We also direct our readers' attention to the establishment of a new publication series entitled *Chelonian Research Monographs*, also published by Chelonian Research Foundation. More information regarding this series can be found in the Newsnotes and Announcements section, as well as a pre-publication order form in the Advertising section. The first publication in the series, due out later this year, will be "The Conservation Biology of Freshwater Turtles," produced as a collaborative effort of about 84 contributing authors and the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, encompassing two volumes of ca. 1000 pages of text, photos, and maps covering all of the approximately 225 species of freshwater turtles of the world.

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