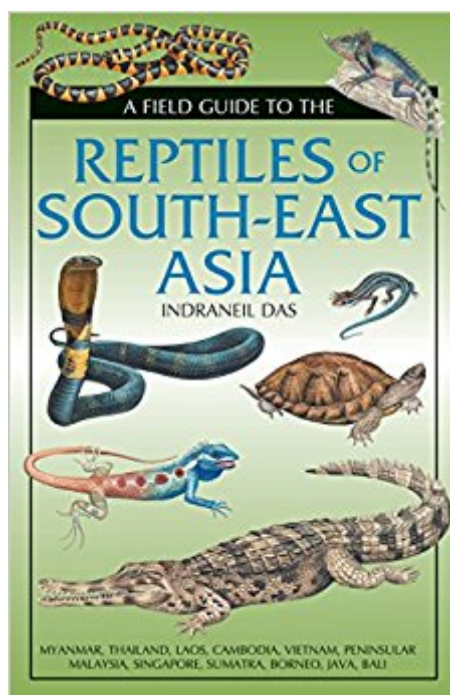


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# A Field Guide To The Reptiles Of South-East Asia



## Synopsis

South-East Asia is home to one of the most diverse reptilian populations on Earth and is quickly becoming one of the most important ecotourism destinations in the world. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-East Asia is the first comprehensive guide to the snakes, lizards, crocodiles, tortoises, and turtles of the region. Covering more than one thousand species and subspecies in thorough detail, this field guide provides authoritative, up-to-date information on identification, habitat, behavior, subspecies, distribution, and status. It also explains the behavior and morphology of reptiles, as well as how to measure and identify species according to scale counts and other anatomical features. This guide is essential reading for anyone interested in the wildlife of South-East Asia--wildlife enthusiasts, students, conservation planners, and specialists alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Indraneil Das is professor of herpetology at the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation, Universiti of Malaysia Sarawak. He received his doctorate from the University of Oxford and was a Fulbright Fellow at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Das's other books include photographic guides to the reptiles of India (2002), Sri Lanka (2005), and Borneo (2006). He is a frequent contributor to scientific journals such as the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology and the Journal of Herpetology.

It is great that such a book exists but (as an amateur) I had hard times using it to tell apart some

species within same genera. The pictures are not very clear. Species descriptions do not offer sufficient tips on how to differentiate between similar species.

This book is indeed a much needed and very welcome first one to cover all known species of reptiles from mainland SE Asia and the Greater Sundas. All species are shown on color plates, with more detailed descriptions of their appearance, habitat, behavior and conservation status, distribution (without maps) to be found separately at the back of the book. So far so good! Unfortunately, while all this makes for a very interesting overview of the region's herpetofauna, the book's usefulness as an actual field guide is undermined by the fact that the illustrations are often too few, poor or inaccurate to let you identify even some very common species, and worse still, there are no keys provided to aid identification either. For the Sunda subregion (Malay peninsula and the Greater Sundas), the more professionally compiled German language guide *Amphibien und Reptilien Südostasiens* can be much more useful, with keys and distribution maps, and quality photos of most species.

When Das showed the advanced copy at a herpetological meeting this summer, everyone's eyes lit up. This is a much needed book for the region and a reference I use quite frequently. This book gives basic information about the species in Southeast Asia, and does a great job of providing the information needed for basic identification. Species lengths are included in the descriptions. Unfortunately there are no range maps - a bummer. Novices using this book should also be aware that the large python plate numbers are labeled incorrectly. Hopefully this will be fixed. I hope to see more from Dr. Das in the future. This is a great book, don't hesitate to buy it if you're at all interested in the region.

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