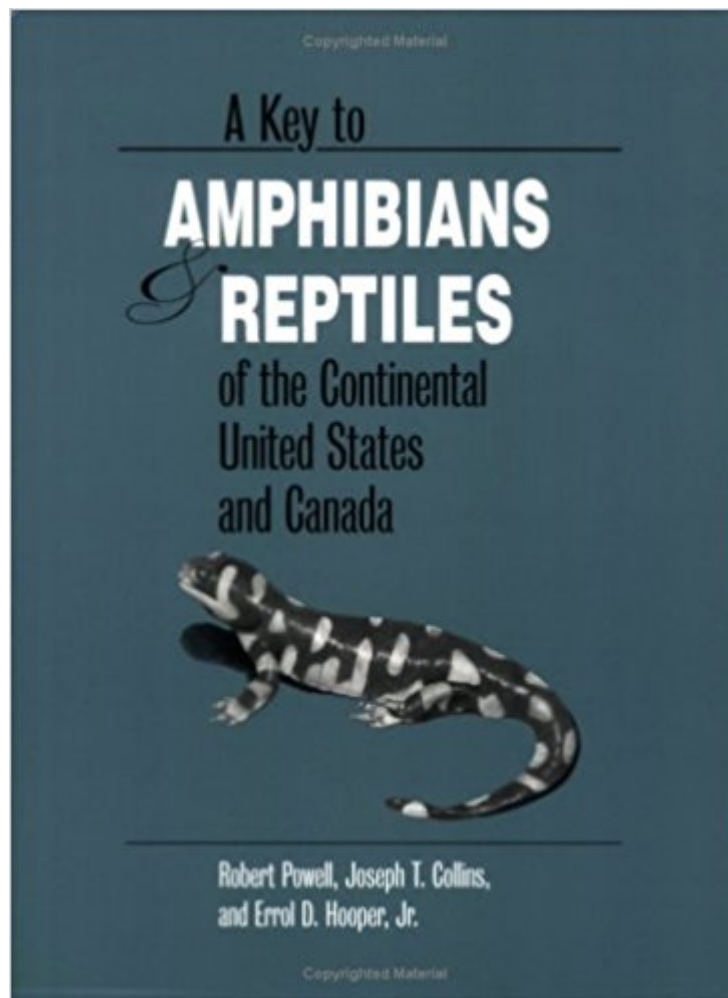




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A Key To Amphibians And Reptiles Of The Continental United States And Canada



Synopsis

This comprehensive key for identifying specimens of amphibians and reptiles in the U.S. and Canada - the first since 1983 - incorporates the wealth of scientific findings generated by molecular systematics (the study of DNA to determine genetic relationships) and simplifies identification by making geographic origin a leading factor. A dichotomous key (that is, one that gives the user only two choices at each level of morphological scrutiny), it is designed for use in college-level herpetology or vertebrate biology courses. It will be especially useful as an effective tool for teaching the principles of taxonomy and for introducing students to the systematics of amphibians and reptiles. While it can serve to identify specimens in the field, it is intended primarily as a teaching tool for classifying preserved specimens whose geographic origins are known. The dichotomous keys are supplemented by 257 line illustrations depicting the distinguishing morphological characteristics of salamanders, frogs and toads, turtles, alligators and crocodilians, amphisbaenians (wormlike lizards), lizards, and snakes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Powell teaches biology at Avila College in Kansas City, Missouri. Joseph T. Collins, coauthor of the Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America, is the director of the Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles in Lawrence, Kansas. Errol D. Hooper, Jr., is a freelance wildlife illustrator.

Some of the taxonomy in this book is a little questionable but it gets the job done. I do not recommend it for live IDs but only vouchered specimens.

This key is a must for anyone that is seriously interested in reptiles or amphibians. For instructors of Herpetology lab this book will prove to be invaluable, the illustrations and current phylogenetic classifications will aid in teaching.

This book provides an extensive key to amphibians and reptiles in North America. If you are studying herpetology, this book has many diagrams in it that really help with keying out distinguishing characteristics. Plus, the book is set up simply in plain English. Other keys that I have used were not as extensive as this one, and they were usually confusing. This key takes away all the ambiguity.

This breaks down characters for families very easily. The only drawback to this book is that it doesn't contain common names, but that can always be looked up. I recommend this book to any biologist or herpetologist. It also shows what the basic characters are with pictures.

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