
On April 30, 2003, the Society for the Study of the Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), published in their collection Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology the volume: The Herpetology of Cuba by Thomas Barbour and Charles T. Ramsden, with an introduction by Rodolfo Ruibal. This is a reprint of volume 47, number 2, May 1919 of the Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College. The original work provides information on 70 species of amphibians and reptiles from Cuba and it constitutes an important revision and update of Cuban herpetology. A brief introduction, a synopsis of the species, and a section dedicated to species erroneously assigned to Cuban herpetofauna, conform the first part of the book. It also includes a brief note dedicated to the geography of Cuba and some comments on faunal relationships. The book continues with a check list of species, followed by 15 full page plates with figures that include black and white photos, drawings on the head escalation of lizards and snakes, and other morphological details that are very practical for the identification of many species. The text closes with a detailed systematic account of species with keys for genera and species identification.

This facsimile reprint includes a valuable introduction by Rodolfo Ruibal, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Biology, University California at Riverside, and also a prestigious Cuban herpetologist who has been in the United States since the 1950s. Ruibal emphasizes the value of Thomas Barbour and Charles T. Ramsden’s work even today. This interesting publication contains valuable commentaries and explanatory notes on the nomenclature of some taxa, references from the editors, Aaron M. Bauer and Gregory Watkins-Colwell, and annotations and corrections contained in one of the two original copies of this paper at the Library of the Department of Herpetology of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

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