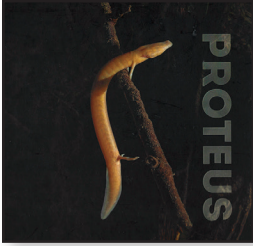


PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Proteus

Katarina Koller Šarić, Dušan Jelić, Petra Kovač Konrad, and Branko Jalžić (eds.). 2019. Association Hyla, Zagreb, Croatia (contact Katarina Koller Šarić at katarina.koller@hhdhyla.hr). 249 pp. Hardcover. €35.00 (ca. US \$38.00). ISBN: 978-953-95256-6-6.



The olm (*Proteus anguinus*) is certainly one of the most intriguing and mysterious amphibians in the world. It is found only in central and southeastern Europe, specifically in southern Slovenia, the basin of the Soa River near Trieste, Italy, southwestern Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. The species is entirely subterranean, often living in

very deep, nearly inaccessible caves in rugged karst topography. It apparently rarely moves very far within a small home range and has life history characteristics suggesting great longevity. To study this species is a challenge to say the least, one undertaken by a small group of extremely dedicated Croatian researchers who brave the cold, wet deep caverns of the Dinaric Karst. *Proteus* is as much of a tribute to these cave-diving researchers as it is to the little-known olm. The book is composed of two parts and an appendix. The first part (53 pp.) has chapters focusing on the geologic and biotic characteristics of the Dinaric Karst, including information on karst topography and chemistry, speleological research in Croatia, cave-diving, cave biota in Croatia, and background literature on these topics. The second part's chapters (pp. 56–157) are all about *P. anguinus*—systematics, habitat, distribution, anatomy, physiology, reproduction, behavior, and status and conservation; there is also a review of historical research on *P. anguinus* in Croatia. The literature on *Proteus* in part two is extensive (pp. 158–175). An appendix (pp. 176–246) of current research projects follows, covering details of cave exploration, capture-mark-recapture studies, eDNA research, health examination, and the use of ultrasound in monitoring health and reproduction. Each chapter in the appendix has its own literature cited, and each has numerous color illustrations. The color photographs and illustrations throughout the book, numbering in the hundreds, are spectacular. They cover all aspects of research: historical photos, publications and documents, above-ground karst, maps, charts, cohabiting biota, many photos of *P. anguinus* in situ in deep caves, cave diving, researchers in very tight passages hauling gear, anatomical illustrations of *Proteus*, ultrasonograms, and histology slides. Entirely in English, the book offers a window into the Croatian literature on olms and the dedication of researchers trying to understand its biology in a most inhospitable environment. Amphibian researchers (especially salamander enthusiasts), naturalists, speleologists, and bibliophiles interested in this most unique animal will want a copy. The book is well worth the modest price.

Restinga. Herpetofauna do Litoral Norte da Bahia

Moacir Santos Tinôco (editor). 2019. Barro de Chão, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. 571 pp. Hardcover. No price. ISBN: 978-85-67301-04-4.



The restinga is one of the most important ecosystems in Brazil. Located on the north coast of Bahia, the restinga brings together dunes, ponds, wetlands, marshes, savannas, arid regions, lagoons, and dry and humid forests in a virtual wilderness of biological diversity. It is a region where four major global biomes (the Atlantic Forest, caatinga, cerrado, and marine) and two major ecological hotspots come together. In order to better understand this region's herpetofauna, the North Coast of Bahia Herpetological Project (HLNB) was established in 2007. Under its auspices, 7000 hours of field work by >200 researchers resulted in 70,000 records, 4000 acoustic recordings, thousands of photographs, and a vast database to direct future studies. As a result, the number of known amphibian (59) and reptile (105) species in this region has expanded considerably. The project continues to monitor four localities constantly. *Restinga. Herpetofauna do Litoral Norte da Bahia* is one result of this extensive research, a tribute to the dedication of Brazilian researchers and their international collaborators who have spent so much time and energy in documenting the biodiversity of the region.

The book introduces the reader to the restinga and its topography and habitats, regional biodiversity, the expansion of herpetological research in Brazil, the HLNB, systematics, research techniques, and the management of amphibians and reptiles in a short (53 pp.) multi-authored overview. As with the rest of the book, the text is in Portuguese and English, and is profusely illustrated by beautiful, often full page, color photographs. Most of the remainder of the book consists of species accounts of the amphibians (pp. 56–207) and reptiles (pp. 208–503) found in the restinga. Each account has a full-page color photo of the species, followed by a full-page account covering distribution (with regional map), characteristics, habits and habitat, and additional notes on natural history. Small illustrations in black at the bottom of the page show habitat (e.g., trees), microhabitat (e.g., an animal in a burrow), prey, and for large lizards, snakes, and crocodylians, a human figure with the animal juxtaposed beside it for size comparison; small species are compared with a human hand. At the end of the book, there are sections on exotic species, multiple photos of municipalities, rivers, littoral regions, and reserves, ethnoherpetology, a systematic index showing conservation status with Portuguese and English common names, and miscellaneous supplementary information. An extensive bibliography (pp. 566–571, in small print) ends the book.

Restinga. Herpetofauna do Litoral Norte da Bahia is a large (30 × 30 cm) book printed on high quality heavy paper, with