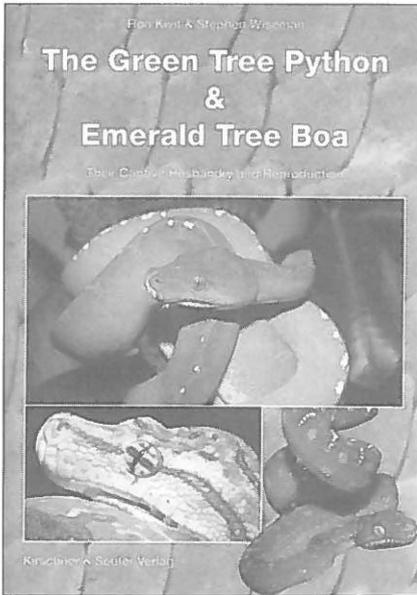


B OOK REVIEW



Ron Kivit & Stephen Wiseman, 2000,
The Green Tree Python & Emerald Tree Boa,
Kirschner & Seuffer Verlag,
ISBN: 3-9804207-3-6;
126 pages, 122 colour photos, 9 drawings and maps.
Price US \$ 33.00 plus shipping.

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The authors Kivit (well known in the Netherlands from his publications in *Lacerta* and *Litteratura Serpentina*) and Wiseman have written this book originating from their fascination for *Morelia viridis* and *Corallus caninus*, which, while they belong to different genera, have many things in common. They have been kept in cap-

tivity for several years, with varying results. Their (breeding) successes have increased over the last few years, which also provided a motivation for the authors to write the book. They wanted to involve the novice, as well as the advanced keeper of these two species in this positive development.

As the authors rightly point out, both these species are not snakes for novice keepers, they require experience, enthusiasm and responsibility. I am therefore somewhat surprised that so much attention is given to the constructing and furnishing of the terrarium, 'what to look for' when purchasing a snake, general pathology and possible treatments. I feel this could have been restricted to a few guidelines or to information relating particularly to these species. Experienced snake keepers may be assumed to have more than an elementary knowledge. What is more, I think that in the case of the diagnosis and treatment of (ill) snakes, a veterinarian should be consulted who has expertise on the subject (such vets are also known to experienced snake-keepers). The responsibility of snake keepers goes beyond ensuring the welfare of their animals kept in captivity and that is why, since breeding successes are increasing, that the purchase of captive bred instead of wild caught specimens, should be accentuated.

The information is reflected in an orderly way. The chapters are arranged very logically and the many beautiful pictures and drawings clarify the text. In particular the distinction between the four described forms of *Morelia viridis* (Aru, Biak, Sorong and Cape York) is made clear. One photograph of a gorgeous animal, a so-called 'Lemon Tree Python', is depicted three times.



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The reason for this is probably the beauty of the animal, so I will forgive them this.

The book contains many practical suggestions for successfully breeding these animals. In the chapters about environment, mating (stimulus), birth and the rearing of the young animals, different possibilities are described and these chapters contain valuable information. This reflects the expertise of the authors and their willingness to share their knowledge with others.

This is one of the reasons why I think it is a pity that they only discuss *Morelia viridis* and *Corallus caninus* and not, for example, the complete genera *Corallus* and/or *Morelia*.

The book is printed on A5 size paper. If you take away the space taken up by the pictures (more than one per page on average), general (familiar) information and bibliography (13 pages) from the total contents, I feel there is just too little remaining to justify the price of 33 US Dollars, despite the beautiful pictures and good information.

Translations: Richard de Jong
Corrections: Lawrence Smith



Corallus caninus from Panguana, East Peru - juvenile colouration. This specimen was found on the ground.