

## BOOK REVIEW

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**A guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park Brunei Darussalam.** Editors: I. Das, Samhan bin Nyawa and J. K. Charles, 2008. Brunei Museums Department, xvii+92 pages. ISBN: 99917-30-32-X.

This is a compact 23 x 16.5 cm volume covering the amphibians and reptiles of the Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park (TMHP)

situated in Tutong District of Brunei Darussalam. This publication stems directly from a workshop conducted at TMHP in December 2006, organized by the Brunei Museums Department – “Inventory and Training Workshop on Herpetological Research and Management Techniques”.

The purpose of this guide book is for visitors to appreciate the amphibian and reptile fauna of TMHP and it is printed in a user friendly format. Although, the basis of this publication is from the brief workshop, additional records should be forwarded to the editors for future incorporation into the checklist.

Specimens listed and photographed in this guide book were obtained through several methods – by visual sightings, hand catching, pitfall and sticky traps. Specimens obtained were photographed and specimenised. These voucher specimens were deposited in the Brunei Museum.

A total of 23 amphibian and 31 reptile (2 crocodilians, 3 turtles, 15 lizards and 11 snakes) species were recorded. Each species is illustrated with a colour photograph of its habitus, material examined and several diagnostic characters. It ends off with a checklist of the herpetofauna, dated 1 December 2007. Two lists of relevant literature and websites pertaining to Brunei Herpetology are also provided. A section on snake-bite and its management is appended. Pictures of the activities of the workshop are appended in the last few pages.

Although this volume is richly illustrated, the colour separation was not ideal, and this mars this otherwise compact guide book.

This is definitely a must-have for nature lovers and herpetologists.

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