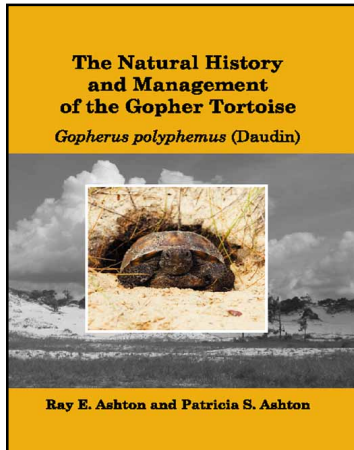


# THE NATURAL HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE GOPHER TORTOISE

(*Gopherus polyphemus* Daudin)

by Ray E. Ashton, Jr. & Patricia Sawyer Ashton

Orig. Ed. 2008 288 pp. ISBN: 978-1-57524-162-3 \$70.00



This handbook is the first book on tortoise management and research techniques that can be applied to gopher tortoises and the concepts can be used for many species. It is designed to be the manual of basic background information on why and how to carry out field methods for environmental consultants, State and Federal agency personnel, tortoise researchers, and land managers. Many tricks of the trade on how to count burrows, excavate, and trap tortoises are given based on the work of past researchers and the groundbreaking work of the Ashtons. No other publication currently exists that brings together all the methods and techniques for gopher tortoise management which can be used with other tortoises and turtles. Students and environmental consultants working with gopher tortoises and other upland species will find this handbook indispensable.

Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and Patricia S. Ashton have published more than 125 articles on reptiles and amphibians, and are the authors of the three-volume *Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida*. They have created some of the most complex and complete management programs for tortoises and other upland species including Florida burrowing owls. Pat Ashton is a field biologist that began her studies of tortoise foraging in the 1970's with Walter Auffenberg. Her new innovative ways of observing tortoises foraging has shed a whole new light on the complexity of their habitat and how to establish carrying capacity. Ray Ashton is now serving his second term on the IUCN Turtle and Tortoise Advisory Group, and is now a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group with the Florida Wildlife Commission working to develop long-term management of extremely endangered tortoises worldwide. During the past 35 years he has served as Chairman of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), Conservation, Liaison Committee with Regional Societies, and Liaison Committee with Zoos. He has served several terms as the co-chair of the Gopher Tortoise Council, Chairperson for the Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals (FCREPA), and as FCREPA Series Editor (Rare and Endangered Biota Series, University of Florida Press). The Ashtons Biodiversity Research & Preservation Institute, Inc. teaches professional level courses on field techniques to researchers, agency officials and land managers. ABRPI co-hosted the International Roundtable on Chelonian Relocation and Assurance Colonies and The Role of Local Government in Protecting Wildlife, both ground breaking conferences that lead to much of this book's recommendations on how relocation and economics of tortoise conservation can work. The ABRPI is the parent of the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative which began the massive effort to educate and mobilize the citizens, governments, and other conservation groups into changing the policies of the FWC before the tortoise became endangered. The Ashtons' current studies include ongoing research into chelonian ultrasound communication, long-term results of tortoise relocation and to begin the efforts to change tortoise conservation in the states where the Fish and Wildlife Service manages tortoises since they are federally listed.

## Contents

Dedication
Introduction
Acknowledgements
<b>Part 1 The Natural History of the Gopher Tortoise</b>
Chapter 1 Natural History and Biology
Chapter 2 Natural History of Gopher Tortoise Burrows
Chapter 3 Habitat and Foraging
<b>Part 2 Management Methods</b>
Chapter 4 Handling and Care of Captive Tortoises
Chapter 5 Plant Surveys, Monitoring and Forage Management
Chapter 6 Burrow Surveys and Population Evaluation
Chapter 7 Capturing Tortoises
Chapter 8 Safe Excavation of Tortoise Burrows
Chapter 9 Land Management for Gopher Tortoises
Chapter 10 Gopher Tortoise Relocation Methods and Management
References



**KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY**

**1-800-724-0025**

## REVIEWS

***“The Ashtons, two recognized chelonian authorities, have combined their talents to produce an amazingly informative and useful volume based heavily on their field and laboratory experiences with gopher tortoises in the southeastern US... Perhaps the most useful contribution of this book is the incredible amount of practical information that will be invaluable for biologists and land managers concerned with protecting gopher tortoises.***

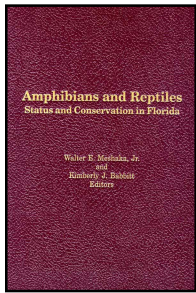
***Many of the methods can be applied to the management of other terrestrial vertebrates.”***—CHOICE

***“...very interesting and full of details including handling, burrow surveys, capturing, tortoise land management and much more.”***—The Herpetile

## Other Titles of Interest

### AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES: Status and Conservation in Florida

edited by *Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. & Kimberly J. Babbitt*  
Orig. Ed. 2005 334 pp. ISBN 978-1-57524-251-4 \$76.25

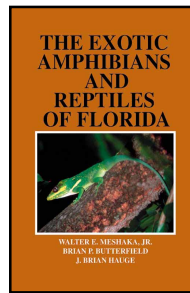


For the first time a broad cross-section of distinguished researchers come together to address the conservation of Florida's rich but imperiled herpetofauna. The 27 contributions represent original research, essays, and reviews that identify contemporary threats to amphibians and reptiles and to the system that supports them. In the Synthesis of the book, Meshaka and Babbitt draw from these works and from prior discussions with the contributors to provide consensus regarding the most important threats facing the conservation of Florida's herpetofauna and proffer clear courses of action to ensure a viable future for this segment of Florida's natural legacy. Ultimately, the reader will see convincingly that conservation of Florida amphibians and reptiles can be achieved at several levels. Readable in style, contemporary in subject matter, this work is a snapshot of the present and a blueprint for the future of conservation action in Florida.

Readable in style, contemporary in subject matter, this work is a snapshot of the present and a blueprint for the future of conservation action in Florida.

### THE EXOTIC AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF FLORIDA

by *Walter E. Meshaka, Jr., Brian P. Butterfield, & J. Brian Hauge*  
Orig. Ed. 2004 166 pp. ISBN 978-1-57524-042-8 \$46.75



Florida contains more exotic amphibians and reptiles than any other U.S. state. Illustrated species accounts detail the history and nature of each, the mode of dispersal, natural history, and present-day habitat and geographic distribution in the state. The impact of these animals is measured by their presence in natural systems of Florida and predator-prey interactions with native and other exotic species. The authors update the list of the documented exotic species in Florida and provide a progress report on new and published natural history information for each established species. An afterword examines the role people have played in the success of these species.

An afterword examines the role people have played in the success of these species.

## Order Directly from Krieger Publishing Company for Immediate Shipment

Please Print

**Please Send The Following Books:**

Author/Title	Price
_____	\$ _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge to my credit card as indicated above.

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing/Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code/Zip(+4) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENT #8153-E

(Please use this number when ordering by phone, fax or e-mail.)

**DOMESTIC SHIPPING INFORMATION**

Shipments are made by UPS unless otherwise requested. Please add **\$7.00** for first book, **\$1.50** for each additional to cover shipping. Florida residents please add sales tax. MasterCard, VISA, and Discover accepted. *Prices subject to change without notice.*

**FOREIGN SHIPPING INFORMATION**

Shipping costs are available on request. Please contact Krieger Publishing Company for more information regarding our foreign distributors.

**Credit Card Information**

Card Number

MasterCard  VISA  Discover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_



**KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY**

1725 Krieger Drive • Malabar, FL 32950  
(321) 724-9542 • FAX (321) 951-3671 • 1-800-724-0025  
e-mail: [info@krieger-publishing.com](mailto:info@krieger-publishing.com)  
[www.krieger-publishing.com](http://www.krieger-publishing.com)