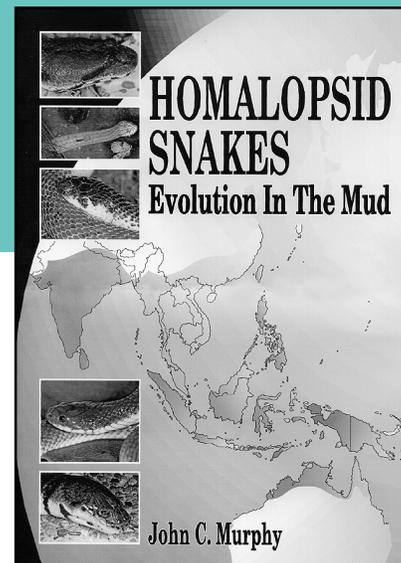


HOMALOPSID SNAKES

Evolution In The Mud

by John C. Murphy

Orig. Ed. 2007 260 pp. ISBN 1-57524-259-1 \$68.50



Homalopsid snakes are aquatic rear-fanged snakes that inhabit freshwater, brackish water, and marine environments from Pakistan's Indus River eastward to Queensland, Australia. While a few live in flowing streams with clear water and rocky bottoms, most live in the muddy habitats created by Himalayan silt flowing to the seas of Southeast Asia. Many feed on fish, but a few have adapted to feeding on crustaceans and some are commensal with crustaceans living in their burrows. The Indochinese Peninsula and Sunda Shelf contain the greatest species diversity, and the history of these snakes is closely tied to the changing landscape of Southeast Asia. *Homalopsid Snakes: Evolution in the Mud* is the only available book on these aquatic reptiles and the first comprehensive review of the group in 35 years.

It contains species accounts, summaries of the field work, and photographs of the snakes and their morphology which can only be found in this book.

John C. Murphy's interests are in the behavior, ecology, and evolution of snakes. He is a research associate in the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles at Chicago's Field Museum, and he teaches biology at Plainfield High School in Plainfield, IL. He is also the author of *Amphibians and Reptiles of Trinidad and Tobago*, and coauthor (with Robert W. Henderson) of *Tales of Giant Snakes*, both published by Krieger Publishing.

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