

# DICTIONARY OF HERPETOLOGY

by Harvey B. Lillywhite

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## An Updated Guide to Herpetology Terminology

### DICTIONARY OF HERPETOLOGY

Harvey B. Lillywhite

Å. See *Angstrom unit*.

a. Abbreviation of the Latin *annum*, meaning year.

a-, ab-. Prefix meaning "without," "from" or "away from."

**AAA Treatment.** Medical treatment of envenomation that includes the use of antivenin, antibiotics, and antitoxin. First used by H.M. Parrish et al. (*J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 130:551, 1957). Cf. *TCS Technique*.

**AAZPA.** See *American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums*.

**axial.** *adj.* Away from the axis.

**Abbildung.** (Abb.) *n.* An illustration (meaning from German).

**abdomen.** *n.* The posteriormost region of the body cavity, caudal from the lung and thoracic region and containing the stomach, intestine, and reproductive system. Also refers to the "belly" or ventral body surface between the pectoral and pelvic appendages, or underlying the stomach and intestine. Sometimes used synonymously with *venter*.

**abdominal.** *adj.* *n.* 1. Pertaining to the ventral surface of the body. 2. Fourth pair of laminae on turtle plastron (Fig. 6); or a more general reference to *ventrals* or scales on the abdomen of squamates (Fig. 13).

**abdominal cavity.** The cavity of the abdomen, containing the stomach, intestine, reproductive organs, and kidneys.

**abdominal gland.** 1. An enlarged, tubular gland in the posterolateral wall of the cloaca of male urodeles, sometimes extending into the abdominal cavity of some species. A small papilla empties contents either within or outside the cloaca and stimulates the female during courtship. 2. Glands located beneath abdominal scales of Casque-headed Skinks (*Tribolonotus*), unique among lizards.

**abdominal length.** A morphological measurement of tadpoles, defined as the medial, straight line distance from the base of the vent tube to the spiracular wall. There is a large measurement error because neither morphological feature is consistently definable (K.M. Carr & R. Altig, *J. Morphol.* 208:271-277, 1991).

**abdominal pore.** Paired openings in the ventral body wall near the cloaca, each connected to the coelom by a canal. Present in turtles and crocodylians, but not amphibians. May be homologous with the posterior pair of segmental urogenital pores in some fishes.

**abdominal rib.** A term used by some authors to denote *gas-tralia* or *parasternal*.

**abdominal sternum.** See *ypsioid bone*.

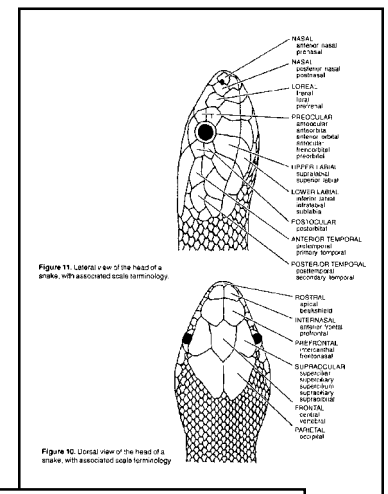
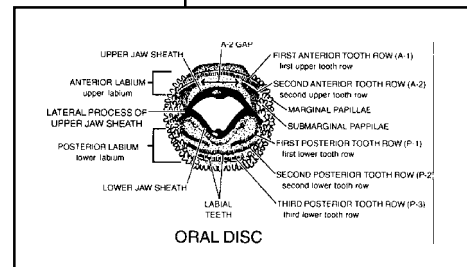


Figure 11. Lateral view of the head of a snake, with associated scale terminology.

Figure 10. Dorsal view of the head of a snake, with associated scale terminology.



ORAL DISC

Following the historical precedent of Peters (1964), the new updated *Dictionary of Herpetology* provides a comprehensive, single-volume dictionary, with selected cross-referenced entries to clarify the many technical terms and concepts that pertain to herpetology. The *Dictionary* provides a complete collection of words that are central to understanding the biology of amphibians and reptiles, offering concise and easy-to-use readable definitions in an A-to-Z format that contains 11,358 entries. This reference is essential for students, professionals, breeders, or anyone who is interested in herpetology and its many interdisciplinary connections. The new *Dictionary* emphasizes terminology related to anatomy, physiology, systematics, evolution, and other disciplines, including newly emerged fields that are relevant to the study of amphibians and reptiles.

**Harvey B. Lillywhite** is Professor of Zoology at the University of Florida and Director of the University of Florida Marine Laboratory at Seahorse Key. He has authored numerous scientific articles, most of them on aspects of structure and function in amphibians and reptiles. His field and research experience include many international activities, mostly in Asia. Dr. Lillywhite is a former Fulbright Fellow, has held editorial positions with seven journals, and is recipient of a Professional Excellence award from the University of Florida.

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