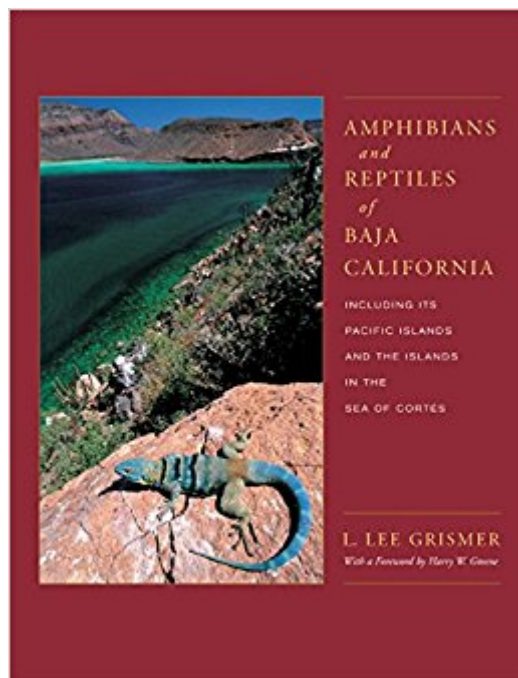




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# Amphibians And Reptiles Of Baja California, Including Its Pacific Islands And The Islands In The Sea Of Cort s (Organisms And Environments)



## Synopsis

The Baja California peninsula is home to many forms of life found nowhere else on earth. This, combined with the peninsula's rugged and inaccessible terrain, has made the area one of the last true biological frontiers of North America. L. Lee Grismer is not only the foremost authority on the amphibians and reptiles of Baja California, but also an outstanding photographer. He has produced the most comprehensive work on the herpetofauna of the peninsula and its islands ever published. With its stunning color images, detailed accounts of many little-known species, and descriptions of the region's diverse environment, this is the definitive guide to the amphibians and reptiles of a fascinating and remote region. The culmination of Grismer's quarter century of fieldwork on the Baja peninsula and his exploration of more than one hundred of its islands in the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortés, this book gives information on the identification, distribution, natural history, and taxonomy of each species of amphibian and reptile found there. Preliminary accounts of the life history of many of the salamanders, frogs, toads, turtles, lizards, and snakes are reported here for the first time, and several species that were almost unknown to science are illustrated in full color. The book also contains new data on species distribution and on the effect of the isolated landscape of the peninsula and its islands on the evolutionary process. Much of the information gathered here is presented in biogeographical overviews that consider the extremely varied environments of Baja California in both a contemporary and a historical framework. An original and important contribution to science, this book will generate further research for years to come as it becomes a benchmark reference for both professionals and amateurs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Grismer brings together an impressive amount of original field and laboratory research, supplemented with a thorough review of existing literature, to present a first-rate accounting of the Baja California herpetofauna. This book sets the stage for further research of the reptiles and amphibians of this remarkable region."-Robert Hansen, Editor, Herpetological Review; "Grismer is without question the foremost authority on the herpetofauna of the Baja Peninsula; no one else could have produced such a detailed, comprehensive treatment of the amphibians and reptiles of the area. The book stands as a monument to Lee's many years of dedicated work on the Baja herpetofauna and will be the standard reference on the subject for many years to come."-Julian C. Lee, author of The Amphibians and Reptiles of the Yucatan Peninsula

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When I bought this book, I was worried about whether I would be getting my money's worth, considering the high price, but as a herp enthusiast who likes to collect books about various regions that are rich in unusual herpetofauna, I decided, with some trepidation, to go for it. I must say that I was totally awestruck by the sheer size of the book, the thoroughness of the accounts, covering every known species, spectacular color photos, beautiful maps, and easy readability. All sorts of interesting tidbits are thrown in from local folklore. This book is a masterpiece in terms of its content, as well as being an absolutely beautiful coffee table book. A must-have for all herp enthusiasts!

This book is amazing and was indispensable for my 11 day trip in southern Baja, helped me locate

several targets.

I first saw this book when a friend brought it along on a camping trip to Baja California. Although a little large to use as a field guide, I just had to have it. In-depth coverage of so many species, background information on geology, geography, climate and flora make this a must-have book to add to your Baja California library. If the photographs were merely descriptive images of each species, this book would still rate 5 stars. But as they are, the photos are works of art and really push the appeal of this book over the top. Even the beautiful full cloth cover treatment adds to its appeal, befitting a true university edition. Don't let the price of this book make you hesitate, it's worth every penny!

First, let me say that I have known Lee Grismer for many years and I know the passion he has for the Baja Peninsula and its natural wonders. I have been waiting a long, long time for this book. When I received it, I scanned the book and planned to read it cover to cover when I had the time. In the last weeks, I made the time and have nearly finished this tome. Dr. Grismer has put his heart and soul into making this book the best herpetological reference on Baja California, bar none. Baja is a mysterious place with many influences flowing into it from the Pacific, the Colorado Desert and mainland MÃ©xico. In this book, Dr. Grismer takes great pains to delineate the geological influences which have helped to shape this strange land and the effects on the herpetology of this 1,000 km long peninsula. I marvel at the time he has put in studying the many organisms extant on the peninsula and his obviously meticulous note taking. I am in awe of the relationships he has built up with local ranchers and fishermen over the last quarter century. Local people are a great source of information and Lee has used their knowledge and consciousness to build a reference source the likes of which has never before been devoted to a similar chunk of land. I would love to write more but I feel that the book will speak for itself. It is a great read and not nearly as tedious as other scientific works I have read. Just for its reference value, this book deserves to be on the shelf of any serious student of herpetology. Now, all we need is Field Guide!

If you're in to herp's at all, you will love this book. I personally have a passion for Rosy Boas (*Lichanura trivirgata*), so having data and photo's of obscure locality specimens is very exciting for me. I also contacted Lee via email, and he was very diligent with replies and candid details about rosys. This book took 25 years of his life to put together, and it shows. The level of detail and representation of every specie and subspecies indigenous to the peninsula is awesome. The quality

of the photographs and the portrait that each paint is outstanding. There are even photos of the variable habitats that occur on the peninsula too. I have never seen the natural habitat that my captive born Baja rosys come from, but this book has inspired me to do so. I highly recommend this book. It will make you want to discover Baja in person. Jerry Hartley Northern Nevada

If you want to have a complete picture of Baja California's interesting herpetological community; this is a splendid book. Written by someone who has spend years in this area studying these animals and therefor knows what he is writing about with a lot of personal information. No one else could have written this standard piece of work for this area. Excellent photographs make this book a must have and makes me want to go bakc there every time I take it off the shelf.

Excellent! Grismer not only has a lengthy description of each animal, he includes and section on the animal's status in the wild and local beliefs, which in all cases are very interesting. The style of of photograpy for title pages is very creative, with the animal in a bottom corner, and the Baja scenery in the background. (He does have macro photographs where the animal is centered for species documentaion.) I highly recommend it for it's wonderful photography and interesting text.

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