

CHAPTER 6

Variation and Evolution of Stereotyped
Behavior in Reptiles

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PART I. A SURVEY OF STEREOTYPED REPTILIAN
BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS

I. Introduction

This compilation of behavioural patterns described in the literature available to us has involved scanning and reading many thousands of papers, monographs, and books. The Reference section documents information that is scattered in a great variety of sources, and which is frequently anecdotal. The choice and inclusion of behavioral information has had to rest upon our interpretation of each description.

We first surveyed and categorized the various types of appropriate behavior relating to agonistic actions by reptiles (in particular intraspecific aggression), courtship, and mating (copulation) which we consider to be at least potentially stereotyped where stereotyped refers to the performance of nonvariable motor patterns. This was done separately for each order or major group of reptiles; and for each order, all behavioral actions are considered as acts or act systems (see below). Every act, act system, and descriptive behavior has been assigned a number. The information could

* The major responsibility of the first section is that of C. C. Carpenter and that of the second section of G. W. Ferguson.

Despite the taxonomic, behavioral, and lifestyle diversity among reptile species, behavioral consistency in reptiles has not been examined to the extent that it has been in fish, birds, and mammals....Â Variation and evolution of stereotyped behavior in reptiles. In C. Gans & D. W. Tinkle (Eds.), *Biology of the reptilia* (Vol. 7, pp. 335â€“554). New York: Academic Press.Google Scholar. 1977. Variation and evolution of stereotyped behavior in reptiles. In Gans C, Tinkle OW (eds): *Volume 7 Ecology and Behavior A: Biology of the Reptilia*, Academic Press, Inc., London: 335-554. Frye FL. 1991. Feeding captive reptiles. In *Reptile Care An Atlas of Diseases and Treatments*. TFH Publications, Neptune City, NJ: 41-100. 2002 IJroceedings â€¢ Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians 169 Funk RS. GETTING STARTED. Identifying Variation All populations have variations. Hypothesize the most common eye color in your class. Now test this hypothesis. To find out more about evolution, visit the Glencoe Science Web Site. www.glencoe.com/sec/science.Â Learning the principles of evolution makes it easier to understand modern biology. One place to start is by learning about the ideas of English scientist Charles Darwin (1809â€“1882)â€”ideas sup-ported by fossil evidence. Fossils shape ideas about evolution. Biologists have used fossils in their work since the eighteenth century.Â C Galapagos marine iguanas eat algae on the oceanâ€™s bottom, an unusual food source for reptiles. Large claws help them cling to slippery rocks. 402. PPoorrttffoolliioo. Change over Time.