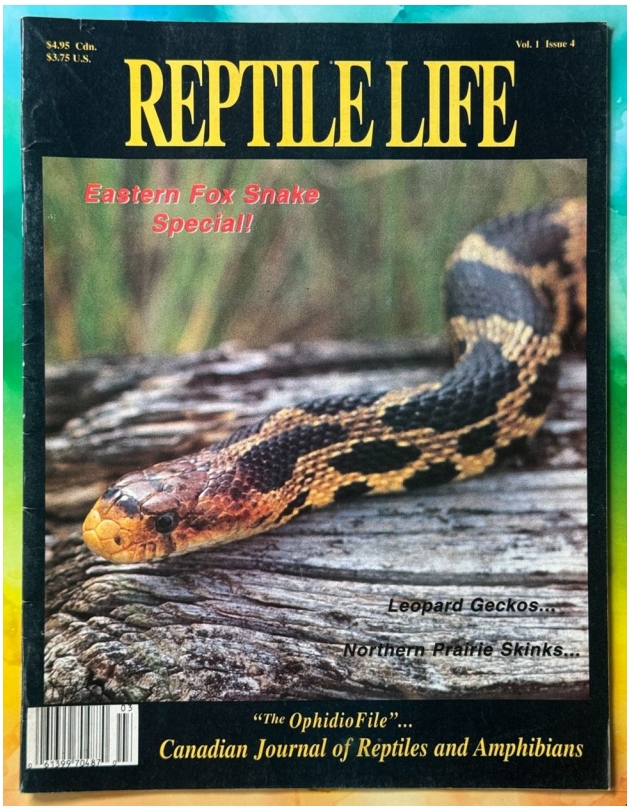
Reptile Life

Magazine Research Record



Volume 1, Issue 4. This cover preserves the transition from Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians / The OphidioFile to Reptile Life.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	Canada
Publisher	Wise and Wright Publishers
Publisher address	100, 1039 17th Ave SW, Suite 214, Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2
Magazine title	Reptile Life
Publication status	Unknown; documented as an active Canadian magazine through at least 2009
Publication run	August/September 1996 through at least 2009; began as The OphidioFile / Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians and continued as Reptile Life
Editor	Jonathan Wright
Printer	Central Web Colorpress, Edmonton, Alberta (Issues 5 and 6; other issues pending research update)
ISSN	1205-8378 (printed in the mastheads for Issues 4, 5, and 6)
Language	English
Publication type	Reptiles and amphibians, natural history, field herpetology, conservation, captive care, and husbandry
Publication frequency	Bimonthly; six issues per subscription year (Issue 6 subscription form)

Collection coverage	Volume 1, Issues 3, 4, 5 (two copies), and 6
Earliest issue represented	Volume 1, Issue 3
Latest issue represented	Volume 1, Issue 6
Earlier title / cover identity	Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians / The OphidioFile
Volume represented	Volume 1
Issues represented	Issues 3, 4, 5, and 6
Managing Editor	Patrick Wise
Web page	Danny O'Connor

Preservation Significance

This short run has unusual preservation value because the surviving physical issues document a visible change in publication identity within the first volume. Volume 1, Issue 3 is presented as Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians with The OphidioFile prominently displayed on the cover. Volume 1, Issue 4 introduces Reptile Life as the dominant title while still retaining “The OphidioFile” and “Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians” at the bottom of the cover. By Issues 5 and 6, Reptile Life stands alone as the principal publication title. Preserving the issues together therefore documents the title transition directly through the magazines themselves rather than requiring the change to be reconstructed later from secondary references.

The collection also preserves two physically different copies of Volume 1, Issue 5. One copy is identified in the collection as a mailed copy and carries an added Gordon & Gotch Canada distribution label and separate pricing sticker. The other is identified as a newsstand copy and has a different barcode presentation without the added distributor label. The paired copies preserve evidence of how the same issue circulated through different distribution channels. That makes the duplicate issue useful as publication history rather than simple duplication.

The covers and contents also preserve a broad picture of Canadian reptile and amphibian interests during the publication period. The represented issues include material on Eastern fox snakes, house snakes, leopard geckos, northern prairie skinks, green iguanas, mantellas, Blanding’s turtle, emerald boas, green pythons, long toed salamanders, Russian tortoises, snapping turtles, snakebite, herping in Canada and abroad, and the world’s largest snake dens. Together, the issues preserve both specialist information and a physical record of how reptile and amphibian subjects were presented to Canadian readers.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

Field	Information
Publication	Reptile Life
Earlier identity	Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians / The OphidioFile
Country	Canada
Publisher	Wise and Wright Publishers
Location	Calgary, Alberta
Editor	Jonathan Wright
Managing Editor	Patrick Wise
Web page credit	Danny O'Connor
Advertising manager, Issues 3 and 4	Tom Hutton
Advertising contact, Issues 5 and 6	Wise & Wright
Issue 4 date	1 July 1997, confirmed directly by the Issue 4 masthead
Issue 4 cover price	$4.95 Canadian / $3.75 U.S.
Issue 5 cover price	$4.95 Canadian / $3.75 U.S.
Issue 6 cover price	$4.50 Canadian / $3.75 U.S.

International Distribution

The physical copies document Canadian cover pricing and differing mailed and newsstand distribution markings on Volume 1, Issue 5. Additional international distribution arrangements: Pending research update.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Field	Information
Volume 1, Issue 3	Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians with The OphidioFile as a large secondary title. Cover subjects include green iguanas, Eastern short horned lizards, mantellas, house snakes, and Blanding's turtle. Masthead issue date: November 1996.
Volume 1, Issue 4	Reptile Life becomes the dominant cover title while "The OphidioFile" and "Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians" remain visible at the bottom. Cover subjects include an Eastern Fox Snake Special, leopard geckos, and northern prairie skinks. Masthead issue date: 1 July 1997.
Volume 1, Issue 5, mailed copy	Reptile Life. Cover subjects include emerald boas and green pythons, long toed salamanders, Russian tortoises, and Okeetee. This copy carries added Gordon & Gotch Canada distribution and price markings. Masthead issue date: 15 October 1997.
Volume 1, Issue 5, newsstand copy	Reptile Life. Same principal cover artwork and subjects as the mailed copy, but with a different barcode presentation and without the added Gordon & Gotch Canada label. Masthead issue date: 15 October 1997.
Volume 1, Issue 6	Reptile Life. Cover subjects include snapping turtles, herping in the Balkans, snakebite, the world's largest snake dens, herping Canada's Okanagan Valley, giant geckos, and a hoop stick feature. Masthead issue date: January 1998.

Title Transition

The surviving run preserves a clear title progression. Issue 3 presents Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians as the principal title and The OphidioFile as a prominent secondary identity. Issue 4 changes the visual hierarchy by making Reptile Life the main title while still retaining the earlier names on the cover. Issues 5 and 6 continue with Reptile Life as the principal identity. Issue 4 is therefore especially important because it functions as the physical bridge between the earlier and later cover identities.

Masthead and Personnel Evidence

The interior contents and personnel blocks supplied with the issues identify Jonathan Wright as Editor, Patrick Wise as Managing Editor, and Danny O'Connor for the web page. Wise and Wright Publishers is identified as publisher at 100, 1039 17th Ave SW, Suite 214, Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2. Issues 3 and 4 identify Tom Hutton as Advertising Manager. By Issues 5 and 6, the advertising contact is listed as Wise & Wright, with an email address using the OphidioFile name. This change is useful evidence that the publication's older identity remained present in its business and contact information even after Reptile Life became the cover title.

Distribution Evidence: Mailed and Newsstand Copies

The two copies of Volume 1, Issue 5 provide direct physical evidence of variant distribution treatment. The copy identified as mailed includes an added Gordon & Gotch Canada block, a separate price label, and a barcode presentation that differs from the copy identified as newsstand. Because the underlying issue and cover artwork are the same, the pair is especially useful for documenting circulation and retail handling.

The precise operational meaning of every barcode digit or sticker is not established by the supplied material alone. The record should therefore preserve the physical differences and the collection's mailed versus newsstand identification without extending those markings beyond what the copies themselves demonstrate.

Selected Contents and Article Evidence

Field	Information
Issue 3	Twenty Twenty Hindsight; The African House Snake; Hunting the "Horned Toad"; Magical Mantellas; Canadian Species Profile, Blanding's Turtle; Forked Tongue Talk; Conservation; Odds & Ends; Veterinarian's Page, Green Iguana Care; The Serpent's Tale; Classifieds.
Issue 4	Dehydration in Reptiles; "Here Be Fox Snakes"; Tracking the Eastern Fox Snake on Georgian Bay; Leopard Geckos; What's in a Name?; Canadian Species Profile, Northern Prairie Skink; Forked Tongue Talk; Conservation; Book Review; Profile; The Serpent's Tale; Classifieds.
Issue 5	Convergent Green, the Emerald Tree Boa and Green Tree Python; "The Children of the Night," Long toed Salamander in Alberta; The Natural History of the Central Asian Tortoise; Innocents Abroad, First Adventures at Okeetee; Species Profile, The Wood Frog; Veterinarian's Page, Reptilian Parasites; Conservation; Odds & Ends; Book Review; Profile; The Serpent's Tale; Classifieds.
Issue 6	The Hoop Stick; Snake Bite; Great Balls of Snakes!; Herping the Okanagan; Snapping Turtle; The Giant Geckos of New Caledonia, Part One; Species Profile, The Smooth Green Snake; Forked Tongue Talk, Learn Your Latin; Letters; Odds & Ends; Book Review; The Serpent's Tale; Classifieds.

Cover and Photo Credits Preserved in the Issues

Field	Information
Issue 3 cover	Photo of an Alberta specimen of the Eastern short horned lizard. © Wayne Lynch.
Issue 4 cover	Photo of an Eastern fox snake. © Jonathan Wright.
Issue 5 cover	Photo of an Emerald tree boa. © Jonathan Wright & Robert McManus. Animal courtesy of Pat Bollard.
Issue 6 cover	Photo of the nocturnal and diurnal West African Gaboon Viper, Bitis gabonica rhinoceros. © Art Staeden.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary website section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	Canada
Publication title	Reptile Life
Earlier title reference	Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians / The OphidioFile
Issue metadata	Volume and issue exactly as printed, cover price where visible, principal cover subjects, and distribution variant where applicable
Preservation emphasis	Title transition within Volume 1, Canadian specialist herpetological publishing, masthead continuity, and survival of mailed and newsstand variants of the same issue

Source Notes

Field	Information
Photographed physical covers	Primary evidence for title presentation, Volume 1 issue numbering, cover prices, cover subjects, barcode differences, and the transition to Reptile Life.
Photographed interior contents / masthead pages	Primary evidence for editor, managing editor, publisher, address, web page credit, advertising contacts, article titles, departments, and cover photo credits.
Collection file identification	Used only where the supplied file name adds issue context, including the July 1997 identification for Volume 1, Issue 4 and the mailed versus newsstand labels for Volume 1, Issue 5.

Research Cautions

- Preserve Canadian Journal of Reptiles and Amphibians, The OphidioFile, and Reptile Life exactly as they appear in the surviving issues. Do not normalize away the title transition.
- Do not assign dates to Issues 3, 5, or 6 unless a dated page, mailing record, or other primary evidence is located. UPDATED: The photographed mastheads now provide the required primary evidence: Issue 3, November 1996; Issue 5, 15 October 1997; Issue 6, January 1998.
- The collection identifies the two Issue 5 copies as mailed and newsstand copies. Preserve that distinction, but do not infer the meaning of every barcode number or sticker without additional evidence.
- Do not treat the two Issue 5 copies as unnecessary duplicates. Their physical differences are part of the publication and distribution history.
- The surviving issues establish the personnel and publisher information shown in the photographed masthead pages. Later or earlier staffing should not be assumed beyond the represented copies.

Verified Masthead Dates and Additional Documentation

Physical issue	Date of issue	Evidence
Volume 1, Issue 3	November 1996	Dated interior masthead; both Issue 5 copies are the same publication issue
Volume 1, Issue 4	1 July 1997	Dated interior masthead; both Issue 5 copies are the same publication issue
Volume 1, Issue 5, mailed copy	15 October 1997	Dated interior masthead; both Issue 5 copies are the same publication issue
Volume 1, Issue 5, newsstand copy	15 October 1997	Dated interior masthead; both Issue 5 copies are the same publication issue
Volume 1, Issue 6	January 1998	Dated interior masthead; both Issue 5 copies are the same publication issue

The supplied mastheads confirm ISSN 1205-8378 for Issues 4–6; six bimonthly issues per subscription year; Central Web Colorpress in Edmonton, Alberta as printer for Issues 5 and 6; and Gordon & Gotch Periodicals as Canadian distributor. United States distribution is identified through Worldwide Media Inc., Bernard deBoer / Fine Print, Ingram Periodicals Inc., and Ubiquity. The address and historical contact information in the original record remain preserved.

The new mastheads also identify contributor changes. Issue 3 lists Tom Huff, Sam Heap, Gideon Fry, Steve Marks and Andrew Clark. Issue 4 lists Tom Huff, Sam Heap, Gideon Fry, Ben Poruch and Michel Villeneuve. Issue 5 lists Philip Bergmann, Erica Grolsch, Peter Helmer and Larry Powell. Issue 6 lists Jon Davidson, Karel Bergmann, Wayne Lynch, Clint Gilders, Sam Heap, Larry Powell and Pat McNichol. These credits are issue specific.

The previously stated need for primary issue-date evidence has now been satisfied by the newly supplied mastheads. The distribution differences of the two physical Issue 5 copies remain independently significant.