Reptile Hobbyist

Magazine Research Record



Volume 1, Number 1, 1995. Inaugural issue represented in the collection.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	United States
Publisher	T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
Publisher address	One TFH Plaza, Neptune City, New Jersey 07753
Magazine title	Reptile Hobbyist
Publication status	Discontinued under this title following the 1999 merger into Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist.
Publication run	First issue: Volume 1, Number 1, 1995. Represented issues continue through February 1999, before the title merged in 1999.
Editor	Tom Mazorlig, identified for later represented issues; issue specific editorial assignments may have varied
Printer	Pending research update
ISSN	1083-432X
Language	English
Publication type	Specialist reptile and amphibian hobby magazine covering husbandry, breeding, species profiles and natural history
Publication frequency	Monthly
Collection coverage	Ten represented issues, from the inaugural 1995 issue through February 1999
Earliest issue represented	Volume 1, Number 1, 1995
Latest issue represented	February 1999
United Kingdom distributor	T.F.H. Publications Ltd., PO Box 15, Waterlooville PO7 6BQ
Inaugural issue	Volume 1, Number 1, 1995
Represented span	1995 through February 1999
Later publication history	Reptile Hobbyist merged with Reptile & Amphibian Magazine in 1999 to form Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist
Editorial staff documented for later represented issues	Founder: Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod; Senior Editor: Jerry G. Walls; Managing Editor: Neal Pronek; Editor: Tom Mazorlig

Preservation Significance

Reptile Hobbyist has strong preservation significance because the collection includes Volume 1, Number 1, the inaugural issue, together with a substantial group of later issues extending through February 1999. That combination makes it possible to document the publication from its beginning through the period immediately before its merger into Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist.

The magazine is also significant as a record of 1990s American herpetoculture. Its covers combine captive care, breeding, species profiles, field observations, taxonomy, husbandry and general natural history. Snake related material appears repeatedly, including ribbon snakes, carpet pythons, kingsnakes, cobras, green tree pythons, ball pythons, African house snakes, rat snakes, sand boas, pine snakes, Asian beauty snakes and Asian rat snakes.

The represented run documents a period when specialist reptile information was still distributed primarily through printed magazines, books, breeders, shows and mail order networks. Because the title later disappeared into a successor publication, the physical issues preserve a distinct publication identity that would otherwise be easy to reduce to a brief bibliographic reference.

Inaugural Issue: Volume 1, Number 1

The collection includes Volume 1, Number 1 from 1995. The cover identifies Reptile Hobbyist as The Best Herp Magazine in the Business and lists Ribbon Snakes, Carpet Pythons, Emerald Swifts and Frilled Dragons among the principal subjects.

The first issue is especially important because it establishes the magazine at the beginning of its numbered run. Independent herpetological bibliographies confirm articles from Reptile Hobbyist 1(1), including The eastern ribbon snake: history and husbandry, demonstrating that the inaugural issue entered later herpetological reference literature.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

Later represented publication records identify T.F.H. Publications, Inc. at One TFH Plaza, Neptune City, New Jersey 07753. The record identifies Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod as founder, Jerry G. Walls as Senior Editor, Neal Pronek as Managing Editor and Tom Mazorlig as Editor. The magazine was published monthly. The existing Publishing and Editorial Information section below preserves further historical and subscription details.

Printer and any other issue specific masthead information not yet established: Pending research update.

International Distribution

The documented United Kingdom distributor was T.F.H. Publications Ltd., PO Box 15, Waterlooville PO7 6BQ. A surviving 1997 publication statement lists subscription rates for Canada, Mexico and other foreign destinations; the represented covers also show separate foreign prices. These are evidence of international marketing and subscriptions, without establishing sales totals in each market.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Field	Information
Volume 1, Number 1, 1995	Inaugural issue. Ribbon Snakes, Carpet Pythons, Emerald Swifts and Frilled Dragons. ISSN 1083-432X.
October 1996	Keeping Cobras, leaf tail geckos and desert tortoises. Cover banner also references notes from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles annual meeting.
February 1997	Eyelash Vipers, Australian Moloch, American Green Toads, with Gray banded Kingsnakes highlighted across the top banner.
April 1997	Green Tree Python, Langaha or Nosy Twig Snakes, desert leopard material and Tomato Frogs.
February 1998, Volume 3, Number 6, Issue 24	Ball Pythons in Ghana, experiences with Bearded Dragons, Handling the Big Guys and Leaf Turtles.
May 1998	African House Snakes, Matamatas, Pine Snakes and a feature on the subspecies problem.
November 1998	Red tailed Rat Snakes, Sand Boas and Map Turtles.
December 1998	Multicolored Hoppers, Asian Beauty Snakes, dwarf chameleons and Tiger Salamanders.
January 1999	Asian Rat Snakes, Blotched Kingsnakes, New Caledonian Crested Geckos and Northern Leopard Frogs.
February 1999	Oriental Fire bellied Toads, Asian Copperheads, Flat Lizards, Star and Radiated Tortoises.

Publication Development

The cover sequence shows a clear change from the more restrained design of Volume 1, Number 1 to the highly saturated photographic style used in later issues. By 1996 and 1997 the publication consistently used large animal portraits, gradient masthead lettering, bold feature text and promotional bursts such as The Most Colorful Herp Magazine.

The 1998 and 1999 covers continue the same visual identity while giving increasingly prominent space to snake features. Several covers are dominated almost entirely by a single snake photograph, including ball pythons, rat snakes and Asian snake species, reinforcing the importance of snakes within the editorial mix.

Editorial Scope

Reptile Hobbyist covered a broad range of reptiles and amphibians rather than functioning as a snake only magazine. The represented covers include frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, tortoises, lizards, chameleons, geckos and dragons alongside numerous snake taxa.

The magazine also addressed issues beyond routine pet care. Cover subjects include notes from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles annual meeting, the subspecies problem, field oriented ball python material from Ghana and repeated natural history treatments. This broader scope supports treating the title as a herpetological hobby publication with both husbandry and natural history content.

Publishing and Editorial Information

Later represented issues identify T.F.H. Publications, Inc. at One TFH Plaza, Neptune City, New Jersey 07753 as publisher. The title was distributed in the United Kingdom through T.F.H. Publications Ltd.

in Waterlooville. Publication information associated with the represented run identifies Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod as founder, Jerry G. Walls as Senior Editor, Neal Pronek as Managing Editor and Tom Mazorlig as Editor.

The magazine was published monthly. A surviving 1997 publication statement lists a United States single copy price of $3.95 and a 12 issue subscription rate of $40.00, with additional rates for Canada, Mexico and other foreign destinations. The represented covers also show separate foreign pricing, providing direct evidence of international distribution.

Transition to Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist

Reptile Hobbyist did not continue indefinitely under its original title. In 1999 T.F.H. Publications acquired Reptile & Amphibian Magazine, and the two publication lines were combined under the title Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist.

Independent magazine indexes identify Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist as the publication formed from the merger of Reptile Hobbyist and Reptile & Amphibian Magazine. The successor title continued through 2001. This merger gives the late Reptile Hobbyist issues additional historical value because they preserve the final period of the magazine before its identity changed.

Independent Verification

The ISSN International Centre confirms Reptile Hobbyist as a United States print serial with ISSN 1083-432X. Independent magazine indexes identify it as a United States magazine published by T.F.H. and document its merger into Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist.

Herpetological bibliographies independently cite articles from the magazine, including material from Volume 1, Number 1 and later issues. For example, Florida herpetological reference databases cite The eastern ribbon snake: history and husbandry from Reptile Hobbyist 1(1) and a 1996 Florida kingsnake article from Volume 2.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	United States
Publication title	Reptile Hobbyist
Publisher	T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
Frequency	Monthly
ISSN	1083-432X
Collection significance	Includes Volume 1, Number 1 and issues extending through February 1999
Preservation emphasis	Inaugural issue, 1990s American herpetoculture, strong snake coverage, international distribution and transition into Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist

Source Notes

Field	Information
Physical covers	Primary evidence for the represented holdings, issue dates, Volume 1 Number 1 status, cover subjects, prices, ISSN and design development.
ISSN International Centre	Independent confirmation of Reptile Hobbyist as a United States print serial with ISSN 1083-432X.
Herpetological bibliographies	Independent evidence that articles from Reptile Hobbyist entered later scientific and natural history reference literature.
Independent magazine indexes	Evidence for T.F.H. publication and the 1999 merger that created Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist.
Damien.world preservation research	Existing collection research documenting T.F.H. publication details, editorial staff and the relationship between Reptile Hobbyist and Reptile & Amphibian Magazine.

Research Cautions

- Issue specific masthead credits for all represented issues have not yet been fully documented in this record. Staff and production information should not be assumed to remain unchanged across the entire run. Further details: Pending research update.
- Volume 1, Number 1 is directly documented by the physical cover and should be identified as the inaugural issue represented in the collection.
- The photographed holdings are not a complete issue by issue run. Only the supplied and otherwise documented copies should be treated as confirmed collection holdings.
- The 1999 merger should be described as a transition into Reptile & Amphibian Hobbyist rather than as simple continuation under the same title.
- The magazine covered reptiles and amphibians broadly. Its strong snake representation in the collection should not be used to characterize the publication itself as snake only.