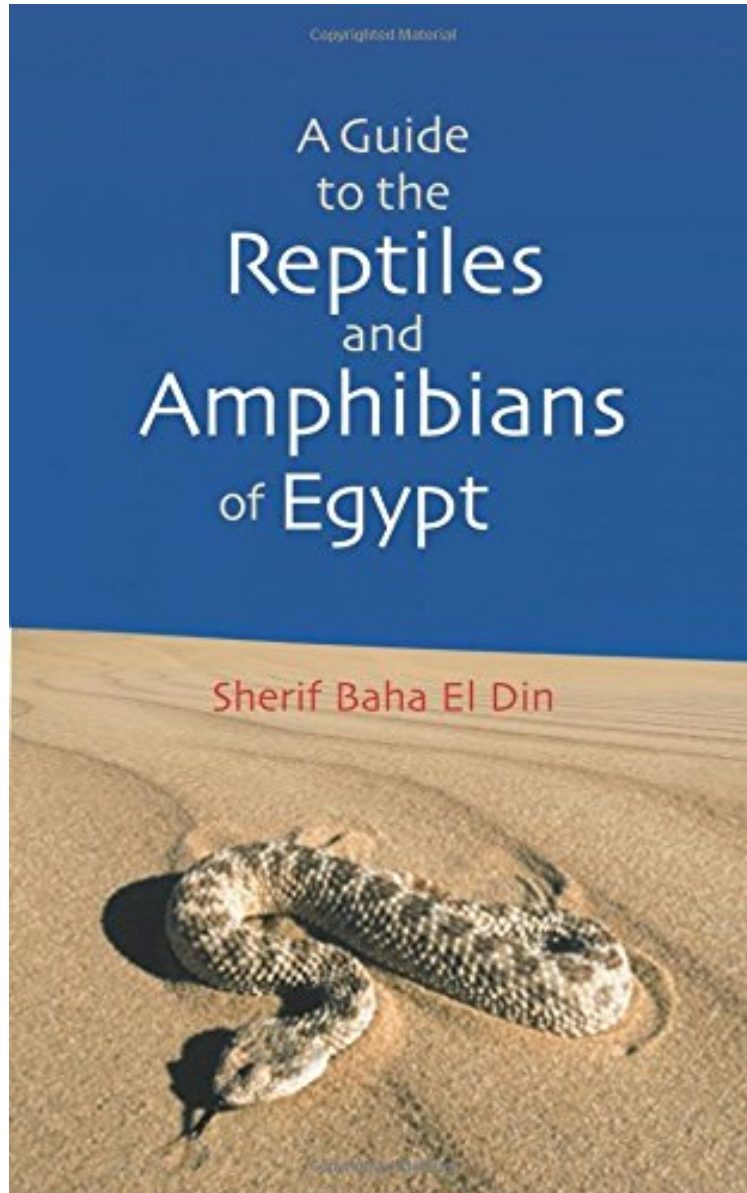


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## A Guide to Reptiles Amphibians of Egypt

*Sherif Baha el Din*

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**Sherif Baha el Din : A Guide to Reptiles Amphibians of Egypt** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guide to Reptiles Amphibians of Egypt:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Review of Reptiles and Amphibians of Egypt By Greg de Nevers This is a pretty good book, as far as it goes. My interest is in ecology and behavior, so I was disappointed how

little the book touches on those aspects of the lives of the animals described. I find the keys all organized for museum curators: if you have a dead specimen in hand you can use them, if not you are out of luck. I wish more attention had been paid to natural history and live animal observations, which the author must have in abundance. As far as usefulness in identifying animals, the really distinctive ones (like *Agama spinosa*) fall right out, whereas the groups where there are a number of similar species (like in the geckos, skinks and snakes) are much more difficult to reach a confident conclusion. The range maps are great. The gazeteer is pointless. A glossary of technical terms used would be helpful, but is not included. If I were an Egyptian Arabic speaker I'd be really mad that there is an index of English common names, but not an index of Arabic common names. I wish the book were more clear about which animals are native and which introduced. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useless to me By Helene Haase Useless to me. Needed a boom with pics and clear descriptions to identify snakes. Got a scholarly tome with black and white diagrams. Waste of my money. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great and first guide to the region By M. G. Kuijpers Finally a guide that covers Egypt in a understanding matter. No highly scientific drawings in black and white, but nice colour photography, distribution maps and some drawings. More photos would have been welcomed especially to show the colour differences between lizards/snakes of the same species in different regions... But then the book would be a lot more expensive. It is clearly made for a broad audience, from scientists to herp fanatics to tourists.

Reptiles and amphibians are among Egypt's most successful wildlife, found in almost every habitat in the country, from homes to fields and the desert itself. For the first time, *A Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Egypt* provides concise, reliable, and up-to-date information on all of Egypt's principal species, with detailed material on their taxonomy, identification, natural history, and ecology. Based on fifteen years of fieldwork, this guide is a valuable tool for experts and amateurs alike in the identification, study, and conservation of these fascinating animals. With an easy-to-use key, high-quality maps, and over 100 color illustrations, this field guide covers 110 species including tortoises and turtles, lizards, snakes, and crocodiles found in Egypt. Each entry contains concise information about the species, including English, Latin, and Arabic names; world and Egypt distribution; distinguishing features; habitat and ecology; behavior; and conservation status. Included too are line drawings to illustrate key identification features and differences between species. With a comprehensive bibliography for further research, the guide supplies the accuracy and scientific rigor that scientists look for, while providing an accessible approach for generalists and amateurs. For biologists, nature lovers, and anyone interested in Egypt's rich natural heritage, *A Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Egypt* is an ideal reference tool.

About the Author Sherif Baha el Din holds a Ph.D. in ecology and is an advisor to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. He is the author of several books, including *The Common Birds of Egypt* (AUC Press, 1984).