

Book Review:

RAFAQAT MASROOR 2012. A contribution to the herpetofauna of Northern Pakistan

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“A contribution to the herpetofauna of Northern Pakistan”, written by Razaqat Masroor (2012) is a contribution to the knowledge of amphibians and reptiles of a restricted area in Northern Pakistan. The author is in charge of the herpetological collections of the Pakistan Museum of Natural History in Islamabad and he was trained by Khalid Javed Baig, who founded the collections at the museum and was one of the most important herpetologists in Pakistan.

The book's introduction briefly describes Pakistan's geography and macroecology and gives more detailed information about Margalla Hills National Park, the area covered by the present study. The park encompasses about 174 km² in the northern surroundings of Islamabad and is considered particularly interesting due to its biological diversity and its role as transitional area between two different zoogeographic regions.

A checklist of the 42 species of amphibians and reptiles (belonging to 16 families) and identification keys to all the species complete the introductory part of the book.

The special part describes all the known species, including English vernacular name, diagnostic features, description, habits, habitats, distribution, conservation and remarks. All the species accounts are accompanied by one or more color pictures and a color distribution map of the species in Pakistan.

A comprehensive table of habitats recorded for each species in the study area, a short chapter about conservation problems of herpetofauna in the Margalla Hills National Park, a rich glossary, and a complete checklist of amphibians and reptiles of Pakistan integrate book text.

A total of 217 pages and 106 pictures, with more than 260 bibliographic references complete this book that gives an important contribution to the knowledge of an interesting, even if rather small, region. The book can be purchased at the cost of \$ 45.00 at the publisher's website (<http://www.ssarherps.org/>).

