


When Heyer et al. (1994) arrived in press it was a perfectly poised manual for all amphibian biologists and ecologists. It became an important purchase for people designing research experiments for amphibians. I read it cover to cover and put its methods into action. A decade later *Amphibian Ecology and Conservation: A Handbook of Techniques* has arrived. Kenneth Dodd states that the book is not a replacement for Heyer et al. (1994) but prefers to consider it an addition to it, presenting modern methods that supplement it.

When browsing through the contents it is clear that *Amphibian Ecology and Conservation: A Handbook of Techniques* brings together a distinguished, international group of amphibian ecologists to provide a state-of-the-art review of many of the newer and exciting techniques used to study amphibians, investigate their populations and determine their conservation status.

The book is divided into five parts. Part 1 discusses the study of amphibians and how to design clear and focused research objectives. Part 2 includes chapters on larval morphology, sampling, project design, dietary analysis and water quality. Part 3 includes chapters on marking, egg mass, egg counts, diet, home range and tracking movements and terrestrial experimentation. Part 4 includes chapters on amphibian populations, sampling methods for capture and detection, trapping, area-based survey methods, rapid assessment, auditory survey methods and measuring habitat covariates. Part 5 addresses amphibian communities and provides chapters on estimating diversity, landscape ecology, conservation and management of amphibian populations.

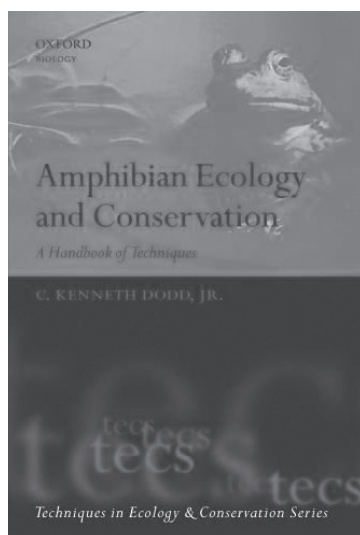
I found the most useful chapters to be the modern technique summaries such as landscape ecology, larval sampling and biochemical analysis. Methods have raced ahead over the years in these areas and it is a welcome introduction to have huge swathes of literature summarised for easy reading and reference. I especially enjoyed the chapters on the latest statistical approaches in amphibian field ecology, the use of models and the interpretation of their results. Much of this information is scattered in the scientific literature or not readily available. The chapter is also co-written by John Nichols – one of the leading experts in the topic. I was particularly

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***Amphibian Ecology and Conservation:  
A Handbook of Techniques***

C. Kenneth Dodd  
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impressed by the choice of authors invited to edit each chapter.

There are a few typographical errors in some chapters, but hardly worth criticising as they do not detract from the content at all.

This book was written as a reference more than a manual for graduate students, researchers and conservationists, and it will likely serve this purpose well. It is succinctly written and its English is accessible for those who do not come from an academic background. A useful glossary is also provided.

I will be recommending that students use both Heyer et al. (1994) and Dodd as there are still many useful undergraduate techniques in Heyer et al. (1994) that are not covered in, or preplaced by, Dodd (e.g., collection and tissue preservation,

specific to amphibians). Together, considering the two texts side-by-side will save painstaking amounts of literature surfing for any amphibian biologist and provide essential cornerstones for all amphibian research programmes.

#### REFERENCES

Heyer, W.R., Donnelly, M.A., McDiarmid, R.W., Hayek, L.C. & Foster, M.S. (1994). *Measuring and Monitoring Biological Diversity: Standard Methods for Amphibians*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.

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