
Preface

Sir William Osler, a famous nineteenth-century physician observed that diagnosis without knowing the literature is like going to sea without charts. The purpose of the current text is to provide the charts: The delineation of available literature on the subject. This approach reconciles a very disparate literature and facilitates access by herpetologists and other professionals interested in amphibian and reptile disease. It should be of interest to anyone working on animal models of disease and their behavioral implications. The book is designed to also be accessible to non-herpetologists with specific information available by common and scientific name and by disease or disease category, with a full glossary of terms provided. The book is annotated to identify mistaken/superseded diagnoses and changes in taxonomic classification. The book provides a “library” for macroscopic osseous manifestations of a variety of diseases in higher vertebrates facilitating understanding of literature-based diagnoses.

One of the challenges of research is that even the existence of articles related to a particular subject may be hidden by the rarity and obscurity of the publication. The literature of osseous pathology is rife with disparate citation, such that a whole set of topical publications has not previously been available in a single source. For example, shell disease in contemporary turtles has been a source of confusion, partially fueled by a disparate literature. The critical studies on turtle shell pathogenesis were published in literature sources not cited in the standard studies of structural pathology. This is an example of one of the important contributions of this annotated bibliography. It makes the whole span of the literature available to all, such that cross-communication and interdisciplinary efforts can be initiated. The current effort delineates the information by publication, characterizes the contents of the publication, establishes the validity of the conclusions and provides a unique indexing system for identifying the pertinent literature by common and scientific names. It represents an exhaustive literature compilation organized searching by subject, examination of articles for additional, apparently, pertinent citations, and review of journal tables of contents. We would be honored to consider this volume as a companion text to Elliot Jacobson’s 2007 tome on reptile biology, anatomy, histology, and pathology.

Herpetological Osteopathology

Annotated Bibliography of Amphibians and Reptiles

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