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Special Issue Reprint

## Advances in Diversity, Conservation, and Taxonomy of Madagascar's Amphibians and Reptiles - Feature Issue of the Section Herpetology

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Madagascar is characterized by high levels of endemism. This is particularly visible among amphibians and reptiles, which both showing conspicuous diversity and a great number of species. Herpetological research carried out in recent decades has shown a considerable increase in the participation of and leadership among Malagasy researchers and led to a great increase in species-related knowledge. Rampant deforestation and augmented habitat loss have led to the worrying shrinkage of available natural habitats. As a result, many species of amphibians and reptiles (including newly described species) are currently classified within the most highly threatened categories of the IUCN red listing. This Special Issue assembles ten specialist contributions dedicated to Malagasy amphibians and reptiles, including papers discussing the species compositions in crucial areas, as well as information on threatened species and associated pet trades. This set of contributions will also highlight how taxonomic research and field experiments continue to play a key role in describing this unique diversity, allowing us to better understand the origin of and historical factors that explain the current distribution patterns of Malagasy biodiversity.

