

THE GOOD OLD/BAD OLD DAYS
A survey of reptile and amphibian species traded
during the period 1948-1957

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INTRODUCTION

The commercial trade in reptiles and amphibians is undoubtedly an emotive subject for many people, with members of the British Herpetological Society inevitably holding a variety of differing opinions regarding it. There are those who themselves make a living out of the trade, and those who deplore its existence; those who have bought animals from time to time, and those who are distressed by the unsuitable conditions under which herptiles are so often kept in non-specialist pet-shops. These attitudes are by no means mutually exclusive, however, and the document *BHS Policy on Animals in Captivity Trade and Legislation*, goes some way towards defining a responsible common approach to the matter.

Whatever we may feel about the trade, though, it is likely that we will be, in some way, interested to know just which species are now, or have been in the past, offered for sale. Many of us have some informal knowledge of this, whether it be acquired by browsing through newspaper advertisements or by window-shopping at pet-shops, but few systematic surveys of the trade seem to come to our attention, and I feel that this area invites research. With this thought in mind, and with a number of dealers' lists covering the period from 1948 to 1957 having recently come into my possession, I have attempted to provide a summary relating to that decade. I hope that reading this may encourage others to consider doing similar work on later periods.

EXPLANATION

The information that has been collected from the dealers' lists is: Latin name; English name; source (where given); and price, given as £(pounds)/(shillings)/(pence). It may be helpful to younger readers to explain that, in pre-decimal British currency, one pound was equal to twenty shillings and one shilling was equal to twelve "old" pence. Although most prices refer to individual animals, I have also quoted those for larger quantities where possible. Most Latin and English names are as originally given by the dealers, although some spelling corrections and up-dating of names have been incorporated where this was deemed necessary to avoid confusion.

The species list will be published in three parts, spread over as many issues of the Bulletin. Part 1, below, covers lizards; part 2 will deal with snakes; and, finally, part 3 will look at chelonians and crocodylians, and amphibians.

SPECIES LIST

PART 1: LIZARDS

<i>Abroneia sp.</i>	Mexican green "zonure"	USA	25/-
<i>Acanthodactylus sp.</i>	Spiny-footed lizard	Algeria	
<i>Acanthodactylus shreiberi</i>	Fringe-toed lizard	Israel	17/-
<i>Agama atricollis</i>	Agama	Belgian Congo	
<i>Agama inermis</i>	Agama	Algeria	
<i>Agama stellio</i>	Hardun	Tel Aviv	10/-
<i>Ameiva ameiva</i>	Ameiva	Brazil, Surinam	£1/2/-
<i>Amphibolurus barbatus</i>	Bearded lizard		£5
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow worm	Belgium, Germany,	
		Italy	£3/15/- per 100
<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>	Green anolis	USA, Central America	8/6
<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	Indian tree lizard	India	£1/10/-
<i>Chalcides chalcides</i>	Sand skink, seps	Italy	5/-
<i>Chalcides chalcides striatus</i>	Sand skink, seps	Spain	6/-
<i>Chalcides trilineatus</i>	African three-lined skink	Africa	7/6
<i>Chameleo bitaeniatus ellioti</i>	Kenyan chameleon	Captive-bred	£1/10/-
<i>Chameleo dilepis</i>	Chameleon	Belgian Congo	
<i>Chlamydosaurus kingi</i>	Australian frilled lizard	Australia	£16
<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	Whiptail lizard	USA	£1/8/-
<i>Cordylus cordylus</i>	Reddish-brown zonure	South Africa	£1/5/-
<i>Cordylus cordylus niger</i>	Black zonure	South Africa	£1/5/-
<i>Cordylus cataphractus</i>	Zonure	South Africa	£1/12/-
<i>Cordylus polyzonus</i>	Zonure	South Africa	£1/12/-
<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	Collared lizard	USA	£1
<i>Crotaphytus wislizenii</i>	Leopard lizard	USA	£1/19/-
<i>Diploglossus tenuifasciatus</i>	Lizard	Brazil	£1/19/-
<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>	Desert iguana	USA	£3
<i>Egernia cunninghami</i>	Cunningham's skink	Australia	£4
<i>Egernia major</i>	Great skink		£5
<i>Enyosaurus sp.</i>	Mexican desert iguana	Mexico	£3/10/-
<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	5-lined skink	USA	£1/10/-
<i>Eumeces gilberti</i>			
<i>rubricaudatus</i>	Pink-tailed skink		£1/10/-
<i>Eumeces obsoletus</i>	Bronze skink		£1
<i>Gecko gecko</i>	Great house gecko	Southern China	£2/10/-
<i>Gerrhonotus infernalis</i>			
<i>infernalis</i>	Alligator lizard	Central America	£2/10/-
<i>Gerrhonotus multicarinatus</i>			
<i>webii</i>	Alligator lizard		£2
<i>Gherosaurus nigrolineata</i>	Lizard	Belgian Congo	
<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i>	Indian gecko	India	15/-
<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>	Turkish gecko	Sardinia, Yugoslavia	10/-
<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Common iguana	Surinam	£1/12/-
<i>Lacerta agilis agilis</i>	Sand lizard	Belgium	2/6
<i>Lacerta bedriagae sardoa</i>	Bedriaga's rock lizard	Sardinia	
<i>Lacerta lepida</i>	Eyed lizard	France, Spain	11/-
<i>Lacerta schreiberi</i>	Schreiber's green lizard	Spain	16/-

<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	Green lizard	France, Italy	£5/12/- per 100
<i>Lacerta viridis major</i>	Giant green lizard		£1/5/-
<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Common lizard	Belgium	2/6
<i>Mabuya mucullabris</i>	Skink	Belgian Congo	
<i>Mabuya trivittata</i>	Striped skink		£1/10/-
<i>Microsaura pumila</i>	Dwarf chameleon	South Africa	£1/10/-
<i>Ophisarus apodus</i>	Scheltopusik	Yugoslavia	15/-
<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	American glass snake	USA	20/-
<i>Pachydactylus ocellatus</i>	Eyed gecko		10/-
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas horned lizard	Texas	15/-
<i>Phyllodactylus marmoratus</i>	Marbled gecko		10/-
<i>Physignathus lesueurii</i>	Lesueur's water dragon	North-east Australia	£5
<i>Podarcis bocagei</i>	Spanish wall lizard	Spain	6/-
<i>Podarcis lilfordi balearica</i>	Lilford's wall lizard	Spain	11/6
<i>Podarcis lilfordi lilfordi</i>	Black wall lizard	Spain	11/6
<i>Podarcis melisellensis</i>	Dalmation wall lizard	Yugoslavia	3/6
<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	Wall lizard	Italy, Sardinia	£2/19/- per 100
<i>Podarcis muralis brueggemanni</i>	Wall lizard	Italy	
<i>Podarcis muralis muralis</i>	Wall lizard	Belgium	
<i>Podarcis muralis quadrilineata</i>	Wall lizard	Sardinia	
<i>Podarcis sicula campestris</i>	Ruin lizard	Italy	3/6
<i>Podarcis taurica</i>	Field lizard	Hungary	5/6
<i>Podarcis tiliguerta</i>	Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard	Sardinia	
<i>Polychrus marmoratus</i>	Tree-lizard	Brazil	£1/19/-
<i>Psammodromus algirus</i>	Algerian sand lizard	Spain	6/-
<i>Psammodromus hispanicus</i>	Desert shrieking lizard	Spain	2/6
<i>Sauromalus obesus</i>	Chuckwalla		£2/10/-
<i>Sceloporus olivaceus</i>	Common fence swift	Central America	15/-
<i>Sceloporus poinsettii</i>	Collared swift	Central America	5/-
<i>Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus</i>	Fence lizard	Eastern USA	£1
<i>Sceloporus v. marmoratus</i>	Rose-bellied lizard	Texas	15/-
<i>Scelotes bipes</i>	Silver sand lizard		£1/10/-
<i>Tarentola mauretania</i>	Moorish gecko	Algeria, Sardinia	
<i>Tetradactylus seps</i>	Short-legged plated lizard		£1/10/-
<i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>	Blue-tongued skink		£4
<i>Trachydosaurus rugosus</i>	Stump-tailed skink		£5
<i>Tropidurus semitaeniatus</i>	Lizard	Brazil	£1/8/-
<i>Tropidurus torquatus</i>	Lizard	Brazil	£1/8/-
<i>Tupinambis nigropunctatus</i>	Tegu lizard	Surinam	£4
<i>Uromastix acanthinurus</i>	Date-palm lizard	Algeria	
<i>Uromastix hardwickii</i>	Hardwick's mastigure	India	£1/19/-
<i>Varanus indicus</i>	Indian monitor	India	£5
<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Nile monitor	Africa	£5
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace monitor		£10
<i>Xantusia henshawi</i>	Spotted night lizard		15/-

To Be Continued