

SPECIAL FEATURE ISSUE  
**VENEZUELA**

42 Distribution, species-richness, endemism, and conservation of Venezuelan amphibians and reptiles

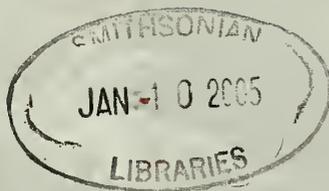
*Jaime E. Péfaur and Juan A. Rivero*

DEPARTMENTS

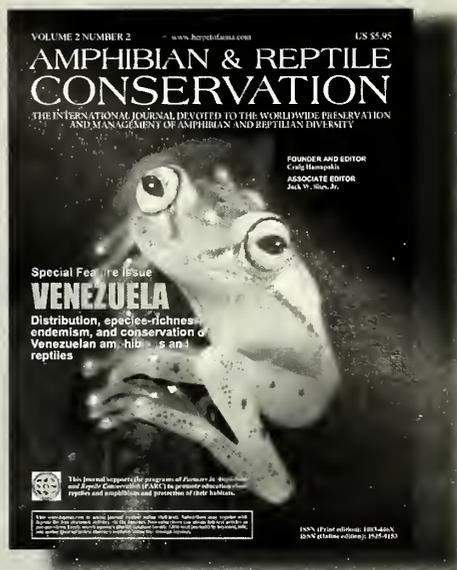
EDITORIAL

40 Words from the editor  
*Craig Hassapakis*

Authors



Background screen photograph (see in color on page 69): A view of the inside of San Eusebio cloud forest, in the Venezuelan Andes. Tree ferns and bromeliads are characteristics. Venezuela, Mérida. *Photo: Jaime E. Péfaur.*



Cover

The polkadot tree frog (*Hyla punctata*) is a common inhabitant of the largest South American ecosystem, the Amazon, and it is also found within the borders of Venezuela. It dwells in both primary and secondary humid forests and is common in marshy areas along river borders, lakes, and flooded grasslands of lowland South America from Venezuela and Trinidad south to the Paraguayan Chaco, east of the Andes mountains. This treefrog becomes almost entirely red at night. Their diet consists of small invertebrates. *Photo kindly provided by Gail Shumway.*

DEDICATION

This issue is dedicated to Maria, Elizabeth, and Derick.

Scope: *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation* (ISSN: 1083-446X) [ARC] and the accompanying online edition (ISSN: 1525-9153) is a popularly accessible, peer-reviewed scientific journal of international scope, which is devoted to the worldwide preservation and management of amphibian and reptilian diversity. **Online edition:** The full-text online edition is available to subscribers FREE-OF-CHARGE as PDF (Portable Document Format) files through *ingenta* at: [www.ingenta.com](http://www.ingenta.com). The online edition may vary slightly from the print edition due to our reducing file sizes for efficient downloading over the Internet. Some background screens (photographs) are removed which are deemed not essential to the content of the article(s). There is also some loss of clarity to photographs in reducing article file sizes to a minimum. 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