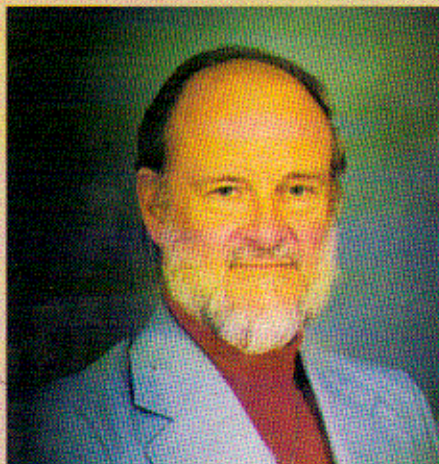




PROFESSOR Harold Heatwole, FN, FAIB, FIB, has had a life-long interest in amphibians and reptiles which took a professional turn with his Ph.D. training at the University of Michigan, where he prepared a thesis on habitat use by forest-floor amphibians. This comparative study took him to the rainforests of Venezuela where he developed an intense interest in tropical ecology. Following receipt of his doctorate, he took up a post at the University of Puerto Rico where he embarked in research on water balance of frogs and a distributional survey of the amphibians and reptiles of the Puerto Rican/Virgin Island Archipelago, while spending summers on ecological studies of herps in Panama. In 1966 he and his family emigrated to Australia and subsequently became naturalized Australian citizens. He spent 25 years at the University of New England in Armidale, New

South Wales and while in Australia his interests diversified to include ecological studies of ants, dieback of Eucalyptus trees, and community ecology of deserts, coral islands, and the Antarctic. His desert research took him to the Central Australian, Namibian, Kalahari, Atacama, Gobi, and Taklamakan deserts and participation for five seasons on an International Biological Programme study in the Sahara. His interests in coral islands led him to the Presidency of the Great Barrier Reef Committee and Foundation President of the Australian Coral Reef Society, and eventually to a second Ph.D. (in Botany) from the University of Queensland on the dynamics of vegetation of islands of the Great Barrier Reef. He also received a third doctorate, a D.Sc. from the University of New England in 1981, for a treatise on ecological herpetology. His interests in the Antarctic culminated in expeditions there, and a series of publications on polar tardigrades. However, during these other activities, his interests in amphibians and reptiles continued, but concentrated on sea snakes, and he served a term as President of the Australian Society of Herpetologists. His current research deals with the predator-prey interaction of venomous snakes with frogs.

Professor Heatwole has a sustained interest in writing and editing, with 290 technical articles in scientific journals to his credit, as well as seven books: *A Coral Island*; *Community Ecology of a Coral Cay*; *Dieback*; *Death of an Australian Landscape*; *Sea Snakes*; *Ecoenergetics of Desert Invertebrates*; *Reptile Ecology*; *Ecology of Reptiles*. He was editor of the *Australian Journal of Ecology* and has served on the editorial boards of *Biotropica* and *Journal of Arid Environments*. He is editor of two series published by Surrey Beatty & Sons: *Ecology in Australia* (now in its seventh volume) and *Amphibian Biology* of which this is the seventh volume. Currently he is a Professor in the Zoology Department of North Carolina State University.