



CHECKLIST OF EXOTIC SPECIES IN THE PHILIPPINE PET TRADE, II. REPTILES

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ABSTRACT – Keeping reptiles as pets has steadily increased in popularity as evidenced by increasing trade volume in the last few decades. To establish a baseline data on available exotic reptiles and to elucidate the dynamics of reptile trade in the Philippines, wildlife trade surveys and interviews were conducted between 2008–2013 in Metro Manila, Cebu, and Davao. Additional trade data were obtained by retrieving data from the CITES trade database and by reviewing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) unpublished reports. A comprehensive list of exotic reptile taxa (N = 197) documented in the Philippine pet trade is provided for the first time, including the ubiquitous *Trachemys scripta elegans* to the critically endangered *Astrochelys yniphora* and *Astrochelys radiata*. Wildlife laundering is emerging as an important mechanism utilized by breeding farms and private zoological parks to circumvent wildlife laws and regulations in the Philippines.

Keywords: reptile, exotic pet trade, critically endangered species, CITES, wildlife laundering, *Astrochelys*, Philippines



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