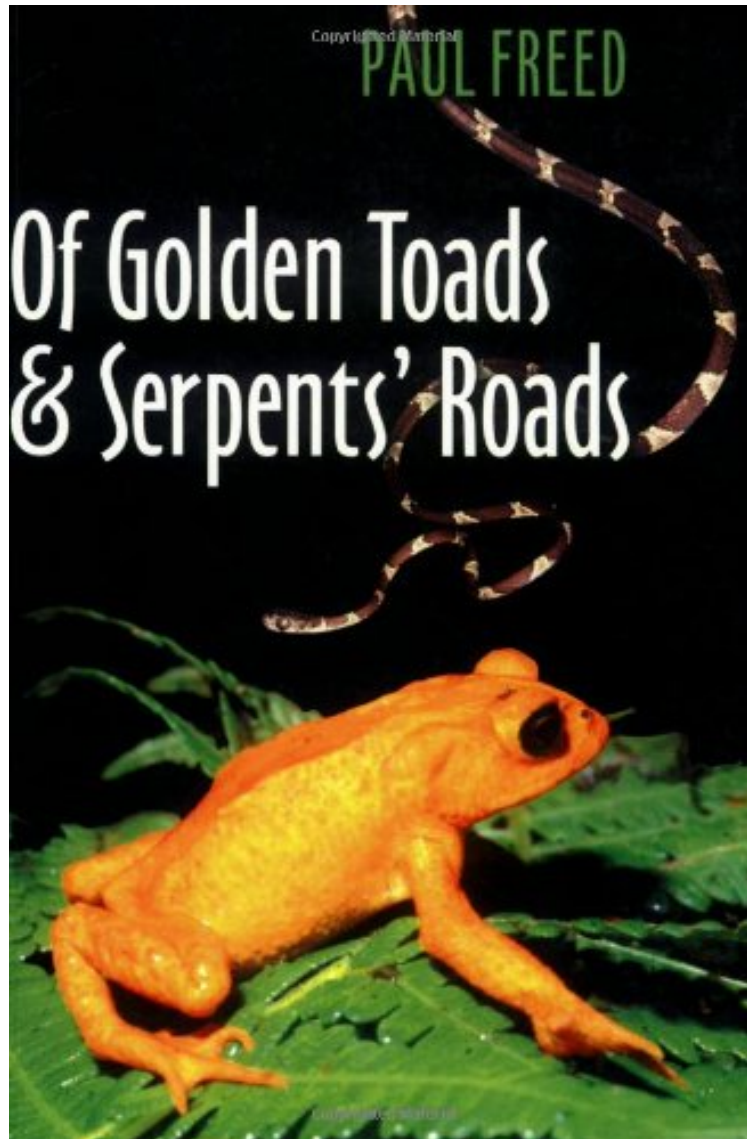


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## Of Golden Toads and Serpents' Roads (Louise Lindsey Merrick Natural Environment Series)

*Paul Freed*

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**Paul Freed : Of Golden Toads and Serpents' Roads (Louise Lindsey Merrick Natural Environment Series)**  
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In *Of Golden Toads and Serpents Roads*, readers are invited to join a seasoned researcher as he goes herping. After nearly twenty years of traveling around the globe searching for toads, frogs, salamanders, snakes, lizards, and turtles, herpetologist Paul Freed pauses to tell stories of his adventures while finding and collecting reptiles and amphibians, from the tropics of Costa Rica to the deserts of Namibia. Whether confronting scorpions, beefworms, army ants, or venomous snakes, Freed conveys a contagious enthusiasm for the outdoors and all that lives in it. With humor and gratitude, he embraces both the hardships and the rewards of being in the field. His tales of discovery are also travel stories, and by sharing the experiences of his trips across the globe the successful ones and those not so successful Freed encourages the adventurer in all of us. As he ponders on a writhing knot of golden toads a species that may now be extinct or the twitching blue tail broken from a girdled lizard, Freed introduces conservation issues particular to specific locales and those shared across the global village. Through his experiences, readers learn a variety of exotic wildlife collection techniques, some of which represent ingenious improvising, under hazardous conditions, and some of which are downright humorous. They share the excitement of scientific discoveries, the thrill of international travel to remote and fascinating regions, and the opportunity to encounter both rare and abundant wildlife in its natural habitats. Armchair naturalists, amateur herpers, and people interested in exotic travel, ecotourism, and scientific adventure will find this book just as appealing and informative as will professional and academic herpetologists.

"Combines the spirit of adventure with natural history and science. Readers are lured by exotic travel and his storytelling skills." -- Russell A. Mittermeier  
About the Author Paul Freed is supervisor of the Herpetology Section at the Houston Zoo and a field associate at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He has traveled extensively on field surveys and research expeditions, mostly in relation to his specialty, herpetological parasitology, a study that requires collecting live reptiles and amphibians. He is the author or coauthor of more than sixty articles in scientific and popular journals, and his photographs are widely published in a variety of books, textbooks, calendars, and magazines, including *National Geographic Explorer*.