



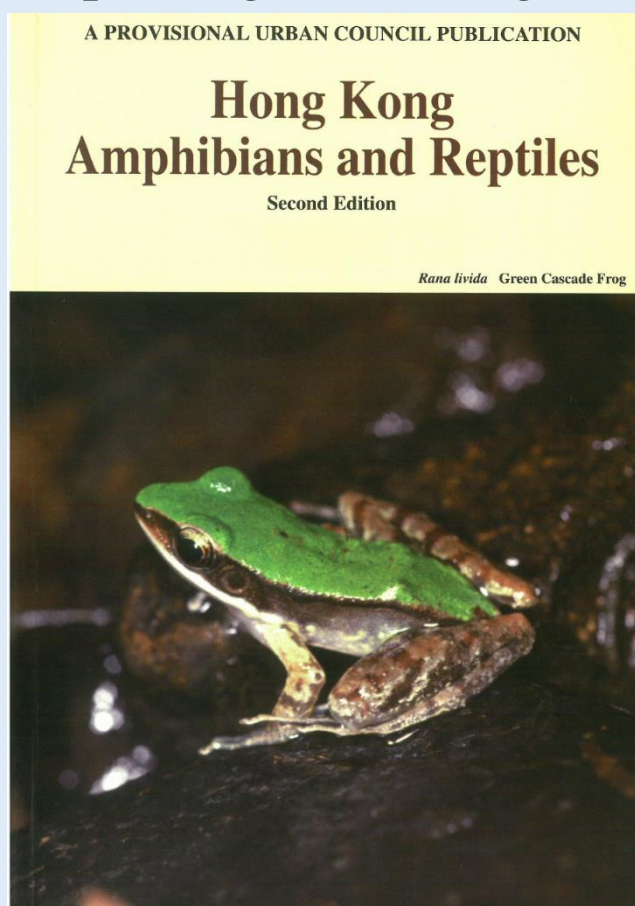
Fr. Bogadek joined the Salesians in 1948. He studied biology at the University College Dublin, and graduated with first class honours. His thesis was on the aspects of the biochemical genetics of fruit flies. He came to Hong Kong in 1949 and taught biology at St. Louis. During his teaching days, he often went on field trips in Hong Kong's wilds with his students to look for reptiles.

Sometimes these field trips involved fearlessly going out at nights and climbing up streams, armed only with torches, in search of snakes and other amphibians.

Fr. Bogadek and his students had made significant discoveries, including the re-discovery of Romer's tree frog (*Philautus romeri*), an endemic species which was once thought to be extinct. Among Fr. Bogadek's most prominent discoveries was a rare, endemic burrowing lizard he found on Hei Ling Chau Island, which had never been identified before. This reptile species has been named after Fr. Bogadek in recognition of his discovery. It is now known as Bogadek's burrowing lizard (*Dibamus bogadeki*).

Fr. Bogadek has an immense interest in snakes. At one point, the snake collection in his special room had 60 different species of snakes, and even included venomous ones such as cobras and bamboo snakes. After learning that some students were milking the venomous snakes of their venom behind his back, Fr. Bogadek decided to dispose of the venomous species. His interest in snakes was in fact sparked by his love and care for his students – as their field trips often took place in locations where venomous snakes lived, Fr. Bogadek wanted to identify snake species and, in case his students got bitten, properly treat snake bites. Fortunately, he never needed to use the knowledge during those field trips.

Fr. Bogadek retired from teaching in 1994, but still supervises the running of the school's biology laboratory since then. Apart from being an active volunteer, he provides assistance to local doctors in identifying snakes in cases of snake bites, and give information about the local herpetology to overseas university and museum researchers. Fr. Bogadek has had several publications, most of them related to herpetology. He is considered by many as the greatest living herpetologist in Hong Kong.



Karsen, S. J., Lau, M.W.N, & Bogadek, A. (1998). Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles (2nd Edition). Provisional Urban Council Hong Kong.

The SL90 Conservation Project of Fr. Bogadek's Research Works

The project aims to:

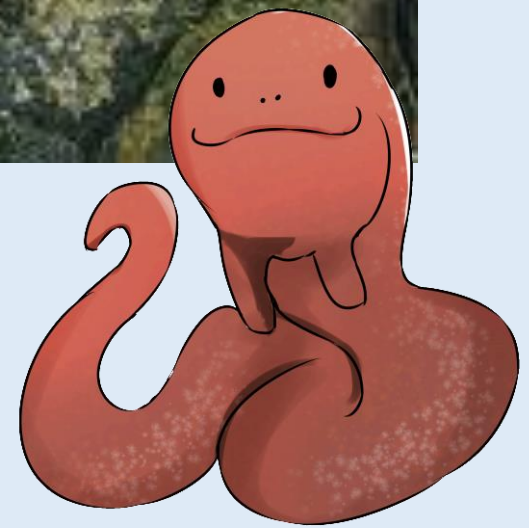
- (1) bring to life the Research Works that Fr. Bogadek and students have done over the past 50 years;
- (2) restore the data of the Research Works for display and educational use; and
- (3) enable the display of the Research Works at the St. Louis Biology Laboratory in a modernized environment.

To achieve the aims above, work is underway to restore and revitalize old specimens, produce 3D-scans of those specimens for online viewing, digitize other data to prevent loss of information, refurbish the St. Louis Biology Laboratory, and interview Fr. Bogadek for the production of a detailed account of his Research Works which spanned decades. Fr. Bogadek is acting as the principal consultant of the project.



Dibamus bogadeki

Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard 鮑氏雙足蜥



Description:

A worm-like lizard; up to 22 cm in total length; 18 cm in snout-vent length. Body cylindrical, of uniform thickness throughout its entire length, about 6 cm in diameter. Body lilac to lavender-grey, tending to brown. Head somewhat depressed. Snout rounded. Suture between rostral and first supralabial absent. Fore limbs absent; posterior limbs present as two tiny flipper-like paddles in males only. Tail tip blunt, paler than body. Regenerated tail ash-white in colour.

Distribution:

A very rare species, endemic to Hong Kong. So far known from only four specimens: one collected in 1987 by Father Anthony Bogadek on Hei Ling Chau; two on Shek Kwu Chau; a fourth one on Sunshine Island.

References:

Karsen, S. J., Lau, M.W.N, & Bogadek, A. (1998). Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles (2nd Edition). Provisional Urban Council Hong Kong.



Occidozyga lima

Rough-skinned Floating Frog 尖舌浮蛙

Description:

A tiny frog, rather “pop-eyed” in appearance, not more than 3cm in body length, olive-green, with a brighter green or pale stripe on the anterior half of the back. The back may be brownish instead of green, and is sprinkled with small, black speckles. Dorsal surface also thickly covered with small granules, making skin rough to touch. Head rather conical in shape. Hind feet fully webbed. Underside creamy, peppered with black. A black stripe on the ventral side of each thigh.

Distribution:

A rare frog local; documented from only a few localities in Hong Kong, Was formerly quite common in Tung Chung on Lantau Island, but this no longer supports the species as the entire area was lost as a natural habitat due to the construction of Hong Kong International Airport

References:

Karsen, S. J., Lau, M.W.N, & Bogadek, A. (1998). Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles (2nd Edition). Provisional Urban Council Hong Kong.



Paramesotriton hongkongensis

Hong Kong Newt 香港瘰螈

Description:

A tailed amphibian, Total length, including tail, about 15cm. Back dark brown or black, with small granules scattered all over the body. A mid-dorsal skin ridge extends backwards from neck through anterior third of tail. Two dorsolateral folds also present. Head spatulate, roughly triangular. Eyes with horizontal pupils. Belly black or dark brown with numerous irregular orange-red blotches extending from chin to vent. Tail dark coloured, thin and laterally flattened, with a thin red stripe along its ventral border. Anterior limbs with four unwebbed digits. Posterior limbs with five unwebbed digits.

Distribution:

Is the only species of newt in Hong Kong. Widely distributed in the New Territories, and abundant in a few localities; more localized on Lantau Island and Hong Kong Island. Known only from Hong Kong and Coastal Guangdong Province. Altitude range in Hong Kong from 900m down to almost sea level.

References:

Karsen, S. J., Lau, M.W.N, & Bogadek, A. (1998). Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles (2nd Edition). Provisional Urban Council Hong Kong.