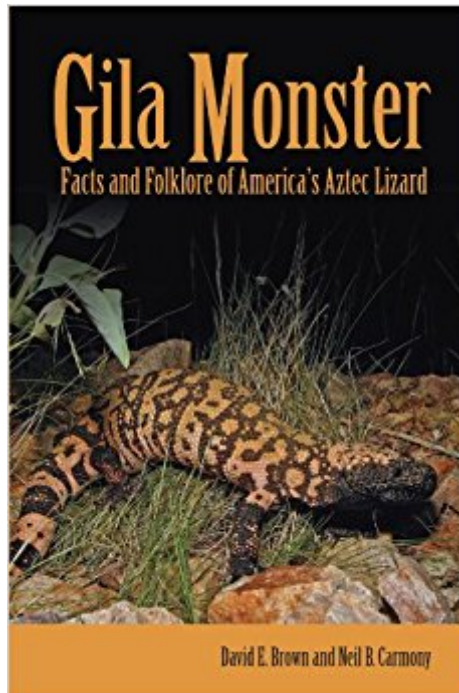




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Gila Monster: Facts & Folklore Of Americas Aztec Lizard



Synopsis

The Gila Monster spends 99% of its life underground, making encounters with this lizard extremely rare. Sightings are infrequent even for the biologists who study them. When one does stumble upon a Gila Monster, however, this slow-moving lizard is not easily forgotten. Advertised by orange-and-black coloration and followed by stories of venomous power, the Gila Monster carries a mystique like that of few other animals. In this volume, authors David Brown and Neil Carmony dig out the tall tales, dispel the myths, and reveal the lizard's true character. Through a collection of biological and historical facts mixed with entertaining stories, they have created an illuminating account of America's largest and only poisonous lizard. Written in an engaging style, *The Gila Monster* is a fun and educational read for all who are intrigued by the Southwest and its most mysterious denizen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One of those educational booklets that you can dip into anywhere. Its entertaining format belies the amount of research that must have gone into putting it together." •The Arizona Daily Star "A remarkable look at an armored lizard with a snake's tongue that lives virtually all its life underground." •Books of the Southwest "Colorful and sometimes humorous accounts about this intriguing reptile. If you are interested in the natural history stories of the Southwest with a twist of animal folklore, this book is easy to read." •Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of

Science

David E. Brown is adjunct professor of biology, Arizona State University, and author of *Vampiro* and *Biotic Communities of the Southwest*. Neil E. Carmony, formerly a chemist with the U.S. Geological Survey, is coeditor (with David Brown) of several books about naturalists and adventurers. Â Â

super book love all of Dave Browns books

Purchased this book for a colleague who just retired from the US Government - he lives in Tucson and loves to find Gila Monsters in his area - has observed them near his home. I am sure he will enjoy the book.

It is an unfortunate fact of publishing that the people who design book covers are not the same as those who write the books. In fact, authors frequently have little or no say over how their work is packaged. I suspect this is the case for Brown and Carmony's excellent work on Gila monsters. It is true that Gila Monster, Facts and Folklore of America's Aztec Lizard carries errors on the back cover, but there are none in the text. Indeed, Brown and Carmony communicate their fascinating subject in a manner that is both readable and accurate. They present not only a complete picture of Gila Monster biology, but also a fascinating look the animals' cultural significance. I heartily urge this book for anyone who has an interest in the herpetology, natural history, or folklore of the American Southwest.

The overall content of the book was good and easily readable, but especially on the cover the authors stated some out and out untruths about the Gila Monster. The Gila Monster is not the only lizard with a forked tongue or with an armored hide as the authors stated. The varanids and teiids also have forked tongue and at least some have armored hides. I tend to disagree with a few other comments made in the book, but at present these are just my opinions and need more research before I can justify an argument against them. The book was interesting, but have some suspicion when reading as to whether or not it is all correct.

Fascinating information regarding early envenomations in the American West, a good bibliography, and wonderful introduction to the subject suitable for any naturalist.

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