

# THE LATEST RESEARCH ON THE BIOLOGY OF CAECILIANS (GYMNOPHIONA)

## Summary

Caecilians (Gymnophiona) are one of the three modern order of amphibians. They live in tropical regions of the Old World and the New World and in most their lifestyle is underground. Additionally, their limbless, divided into annuli, elongate body, externally resembles earth-worm. Numerous adaptations of Gymnophiona to underground life arouse interest. The knowledge of their origin and taxonomy is incomplete. So far,

the fossil record which has been found and described is very scanty. Despite abundant research, the knowledge about ecology of these animals is still deficient. Most of modern research focuses currently on establishing relationships among the families and their breeding. The aim of the paper is to present the latest research on the biology of the caecilinas (origin, environment, anatomy, nutrition and breeding).