Dear Reader,

If you have picked up this clue with the hope of slithering into a smooth solve, I'm afraid you have entered the wrong event altogether. These clues may seem straightforward at first, when you find easy progress made by obvious indicators, but don't be fooled. If you know anything at all about Get A Clue, you already know that this is as circuitous as it gets.

In fact, within this page you now hold in your hands, you'll find a maze of routes to pursue, including taxing taxonomies, curated cages, chameleonic details hiding in plain sight, and a mysterious disappearance just around the corners.

I am bound to record such winding tales, but you are free to put this clue away and seek something more straightforward.

With all due respect,

Lemony Snicket

Lemony Snicket

GetAClue 2025
www.getaclueatl.com

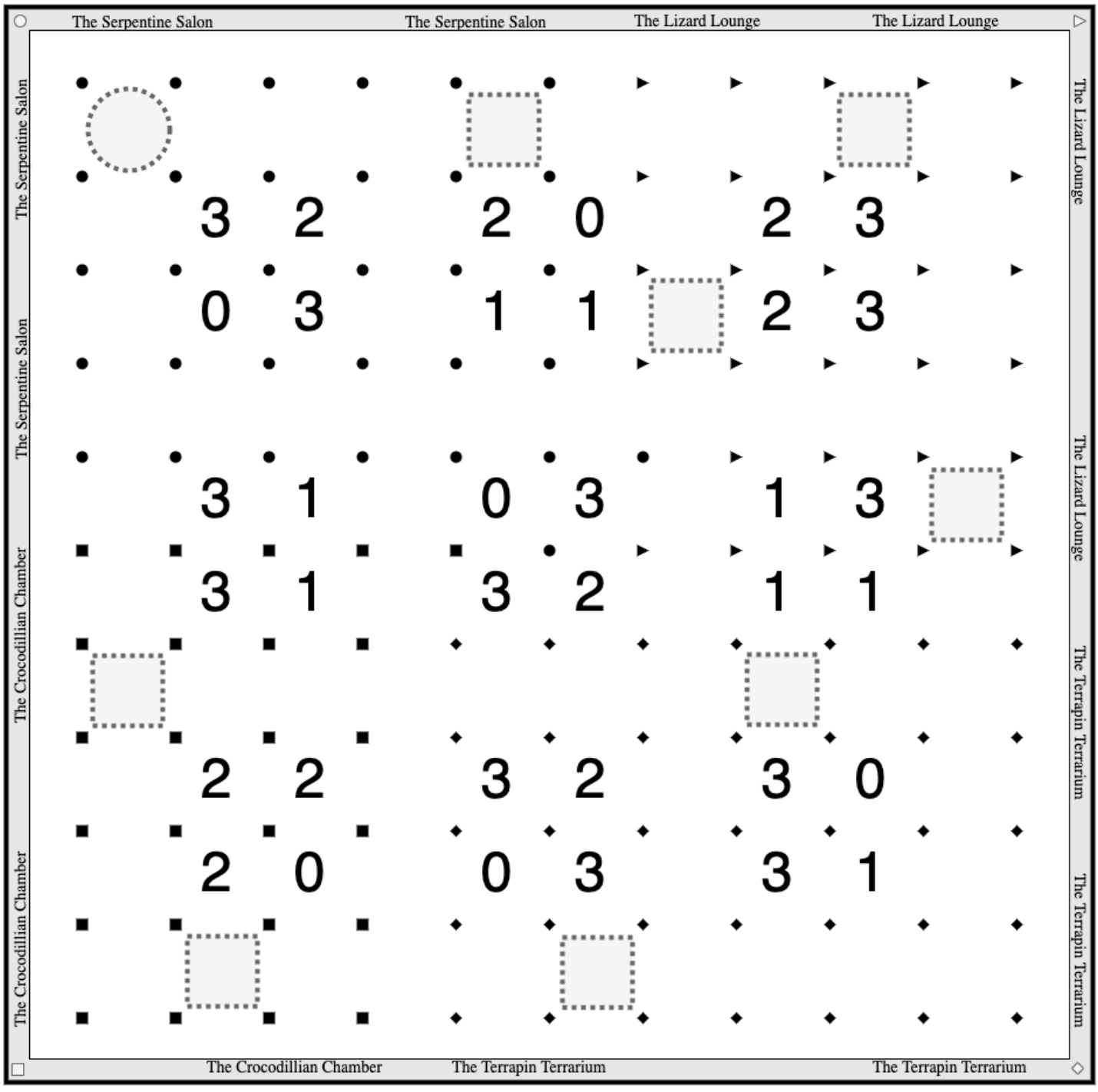
Art courtesy of Brett Helquist

The Reptile Room has always been somewhat of a mild misnomer. Though the alliterative appellation is a delightful descriptor, it ineptly implies that herpetology, the fascinating field of focus for Dr. Montgomery Montgomery, is radically restricted to the realm of reptiles. In the scientific strata, herpetology equally encompasses both the research of reptiles and the analysis of amphibians.

The Reptile Room is also a misnomer in the sense that it is now devoid of all creatures, both reptilian and amphibian. The series of events that has led to this devastating state of affairs is so haunting to recall that even I do not possess the alliterations necessary to describe it to you now.

I have worked tirelessly to track down the specimens of Dr. Montgomery, now free of their cages. On my recent visit to the Reptile Room, the only trace of the freed creatures was the sloughed-off skin of an ouroboros wending its way between the empty cages. You may be able to tell which creatures lived in which of the habitats, but that knowledge now lies only in the pages of Dr. Montgomery's bestiary that I was able to recover.

The ouroboros, as you may well know, is a snake that famously eats its own tail, leaving its shed skin in a perfect ring. I cannot say where it has gone now, though you may be able to deduce it from the path it has taken through this empty menagerie. I can only hope unlike you, Get A Clue heroes, the ouroboros has found a home safe away from the troubles and woes of this sad tale.


The Serpentine Salon
The Serpentine Salon
The Lizard Lounge
The Lizard Lounge
The Serpentine Salon
The Serpentine Salon
The Crocodillian Chamber
The Crocodillian Chamber
The Lizard Lounge
The Lizard Lounge
The Terrapin Terrarium
The Terrapin Terrarium
The Crocodillian Chamber
The Terrapin Terrarium
The Terrapin Terrarium
3 2 2 0 2 3
0 3 1 1 2 3
3 1 0 3 1 3
3 1 3 2 1 1
2 2 3 2 3 0
2 0 0 3 3 1

From the Bestiary of Dr. Montgomery Montgomery

All creatures listed alphabetically, regardless of taxonomy

Anatolian Anole [/əˈnoʊ.li/] This small green lizard hails from the region of Anatolia. The specimen in Dr. Montgomery's collection is known to give three-hour lectures on its native homeland each Sunday afternoon.

Cruciferous Caiman [/kˈeɪmən/] The Cruciferous Caiman is so named for the dense foliage in which it likes to hide, which also makes up the vast majority of its diet. It is the only one of the crocodile family to have a primarily herbivorous diet.

Eastern Elephant Tortoise [/tˈɔːtəs/] The Eastern Elephant Tortoise, so named for its size, is the largest tortoise in the eastern hemisphere. They can weigh nearly three tons and often block entire roadways should they attempt to slowly cross a street.

Irregular-Striped Iguana [/ˌɪgjuːˈɑːnɐ/] This desert-dwelling lizard is named for the colorful bands around its stomach, which are theorized to be attractive when finding a mate in the wild. An adult might have two or more rings around its stomach if full grown.

Leaping Longtail [/lˈɒŋtˈeɪl/] A serpent that coils itself before preparing to pounce. An adult Leaping Longtail is capable of a horizontal leap up measuring up to three times its body length.

Lemon-hued Loggerhead [/lˈɒgəhˌɛd/] This member of the sea turtle family is known for its bright yellow shell, which is colored by one type of algae in its natal habitat. This also helps them to blend into the sand when first hatched to avoid predation.

The Ouroboros

Mischievous Monitor Lizard [/lˈɪzəd/] This iguana is notable for its curiosity and penchant for escaping captivity. To ensure its protection, its habitat is equipped with a one-part security lock, although this lizard has still been known to go on walkabouts through the Reptile Room.

Non-Newtonian Newt [/njˈuːt/] The Non-Newtonian Newt is quite a difficult lizard to obtain, given its penchant for dissolving into slime when threatened. This specimen spent four weeks evading Dr. Montgomery before finally taking solid form in his presence.

Ouroboros [/ˌjʊərəˈbɒrəs/] The ouroboros, or snake which eats its own tail, is known to have a particular fascination with the movement of clocks. As one of Dr. Montgomery's most prized specimens, its exhibit is marked with a circle on the top left corner in the map of the reptile room.

Pastel Pond Turtle [/tˈɜːtəl/] The Pastel Pond Turtle is one of the most distinctive-looking freshwater turtles, known for having marbled cotton-candy colored shells. They generally come in one of two colors: lavender or peach.

Red-Eared Rat-Eater [/ɹˈæt/ /ˈiːtɐ/] This miniature crocodile scarcely ever reaches three feet in length, even at full-grown adult size. Their diet is primarily composed of rats, and they have been adopted in some agricultural societies to reduce rodent population.

Sword-Swallowing Snake [/snˈeɪk/] This fascinating species is known for their abilities to safely swallow swords whole in order to protect themselves from the deadly weapons. The animal here is thought to have swallowed four swords over the course of its life.

Unsettling Usurper [/juːzˈɜːpɐ/] This much-maligned caiman is known for taking over the nests of other crocodiles and using them to raise their young. They have been voted the two-time Least Favorite Crocodile Award at the annual herpetological banquet.