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The HAA is dedicated to the study and conservation of African reptiles and amphibians. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the African herpetofauna. Members receive the Association's journal, *African Journal of Herpetology* (which publishes review papers, research articles, and short communications – subject to peer review) and *African Herp News*, the Newsletter (which includes short communications, natural history notes, geographical distribution notes, herpetological survey reports, venom and snakebite notes, book reviews, bibliographies, husbandry hints, announcements and news items).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTE

Articles shall be considered for publication provided that they are original and have not been published elsewhere. Articles will be submitted for peer review at the Editor's discretion. Authors are requested to submit manuscripts by e-mail in MS Word '.doc' or '.docx' format.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *Smaug giganteus* from near Harrismith South Africa. Photograph by: Stuart Nielsen. Nikon D90 (1/1500, F5.6, ISO 400).

50.6” E). The juvenile *T. spilogaster* was missing its tail indicating that it was probably actively caught and killed (although not confirmed) by the Familiar Chat and that tail autotomy did not assist it in this case.

Familiar Chat’s feed mainly on invertebrates although fruit and human household waste are also taken (Maclean 1985, Hockey et al. 2006). The common Afrikaans name “Spekvreter” was due to it being observed eating the grease from wagon axels, indicating its generalist diet. Although Familiar Chat diet is highly varied I could find no reference to reptiles being included, indicating that the juvenile *T. spilogaster* individual was probably opportunistically taken.

No reference on avian predation of *T. spilogaster* was located and although skinks probably fall prey to a variety of raptors and other predatory birds (See Clauss & Clauss 2002 – *T. wahlbergii* predated by Lilac-breasted Roller) this sighting of Familiar Chat as predator expands the known predators of *T. spilogaster* and skinks in general.

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AGAMIDAE

Agama planiceps (Peters, 1862)
Namibian Rock Agama

DIET

The diet of the Namibian Rock Agama (*Agama planiceps*) is very broadly described by Branch (1995) as “leaves and seeds as well as beetles and insects” while Alexander and Marais (2007) highlight the importance of ants in the diet of various *Agama* spp.

According to Heideman (2002) who analysed *A. planiceps* stomach and intestine remains in the Windhoek area, Namibia, beetles (Coleoptera) were the third most common prey item after ants and honeybees and included the families Coccinellidae, Curculionidae and Tenebrionidae while the ladybird beetle (*Cheilomenes lunata*) was the most commonly consumed beetle species.

On 26 January 2011, at 15h40 an adult female *A. planiceps* was observed in the process of consuming a *Leucocelis* sp. (Fruit Chafer Beetle – Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae) beetle on marble substrate close to an artificial source of water beneath a few large *Ficus cordata* trees, west of Karibib (21° 56' 32.6" S; 15° 45' 39.6" E) in western central Namibia. The agama had the beetle by the head when encountered, but dropped the now headless beetle, and fled for cover when I approached too close attempting to identify it's partially consumed, prey.

Although *A. planiceps* is known to prey on beetles in general, very few data are available on the actual species included in its diet. This sighting confirms Fruit Chafer Beetles as forming part of the diet of *A. planiceps* in Namibia.

Acknowledgements

John Irish is thanked for identifying the beetle remains from the photograph presented.

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