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# African Herp News

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tional Park museum at Maleme Rest Camp.

This new locality represents a southern range extension for the species of nearly 200 km, as the previous Zimbabwean records lie within the Zambezi catchment area, extending into the north of Hwange District and the Midlands as far south as Kwekwe. This gecko has presumably been accidentally introduced to the Mpopoma camp site by tourists arriving from Victoria Falls or the Hwange National Park, where the species is common on buildings. At Mpopoma Dam it is sympatric with *L. stevensoni* (which is common on ablution blocks throughout the park) and *L. capensis* (probably introduced by visitors from Bulawayo). Other sympatric arboreal or rupicolous geckos which were recorded there are *Pachydactylus turneri*, *P. tigrinus*, *Afroedura transvaalica*, *Homopholis wahlbergii*, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (probably also introduced from Bulawayo) and *H. tasmani*.

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**CHAMAELEONIDAE**

***Chamaeleo namaquensis* Smith, 1831**

**Namaqua Chameleon**

South Africa, Western Cape Province, Tierberg, (Botterkreef 3322AB), 33° 09'53.7"S 22°15'59.2"E, alt. 761m; 11 March 2003.

*Chamaeleo namaquensis* occurs in western karroid areas of southern Africa including the Namib Desert from southern Angola through to South Africa, succulent karoo in the winter rainfall area of Namaqualand, and the Nama karoo biome of Namibia and South Africa (Branch 1998). This record represents a range extension over the southern Karoo Plain. It has previously been collected in the Calvinia District (3120CB; Branch, 1990), as far south as Fraserburg (3121DC; Branch, pers. comm.), also in the flats around the Karoo National Park near Beaufort West (3222BC), approximately 100km to the north (Branch & Braack, 1989). The southern most record of this species (SAMZR01167) is in the Breede Valley (from the Worcester Division; 3319CA), 275 km further to the West. The Tierberg specimen was a juvenile with a SVL of 4 cm. This species has also been noted at this locality on a list of reptiles found at the Tierberg Karoo Research Centre (Milton et al., 1992).

**Acknowledgements**

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**SCINCIDAE**

***Typhlacontias rohani* Angel, 1923**

**Kalahari Burrowing Skink**

Zimbabwe, Matobo District, Driefontein Farm (2028CB); 20°34'S, 28°20'E; alt. ca.1300 m; 26-30 November 2003; M. Phiri; Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe, NMZB 17446.

This subadult specimen measures 60 + 32 mm. Midbody scale rows 18; ventrals 131; subcaudals 71; five supralabials, the second entering the orbit, other head shields typical.

This specimen represents a southern range extension of ca. 100 km from Maraposa on the Victoria Falls road (Haacke, 1997, *Bonn. zool. Beitr.* 47: 139-163). Driefontein Farm adjoins the western boundary of the Matobo National Park (Whovi Wild Area) west of Mpopoma Dam, and there must be an extensive relict pocket of Kalahari sand in this area, i.e. south of the watershed between the Zambezi and Limpopo catchments. Small pockets occur in the suburbs of Bulawayo, but the only Kalahari fossorial reptile recorded there is the melanistic phase of *Acontias occidentalis* (Broadley & Greer, 1969. *Arnoldia Rhod.* 4 (26): 1-29). It is interesting to note that a specimen of *A. occidentalis* ploughed up at the same time as the *Typhlacontias* represents the olive green, white-bellied, *broadleyi* phase, which is normally found on granite and schist substrates and is the only phase recorded from the Matobo National Park.

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