African Herp News

Newsletter of the Herpetological Association of Africa

Number 56 **APRIL 2012**

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA
http://www. wits.ac.za/haa

FOUNDED 1965

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.

The views and opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Editor.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *Hyperolius pusillus* from near Nelspruit, South Africa. Photograph by: Bryan Maritz. Canon EOS 50D (1/250, F25, ISO 200).

REFERENCES

ALEXANDER, G. J. 2007. Thermal biology of the Southern African Python (*Python natalensis*): does temperature limit its distribution? pp. 50-75. *in* Henderson, R.W., and Powell, R. (eds.), *Biology of the Boas and Pythons*.. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Utah.

WHITTINGTON-JONES C., WEST, S., MATABANE, A., KOKO, R., MOLABA, W., MOTSAMAI, J., MAKOLA, J., MPHUTI, A., & NDZHUKULA, S. 2008. The herpetofauna of Gauteng: distribution and status of reptiles. Report Volume 1. Chief Directorate of Nature Conservation, Gauteng.

SUBMITTED BY:

GAVIN P. R. MASTERSON, JACKSON LEPHUTING, JOSHUA MATHEBULA, EUNICE SHIRINDA, Chief Directorate of Nature Conservation, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 72 Market Street, Johannesburg, 2000, South Africa. E-mail: gavinmasterson@gmail.com.

*****

GEKKONIDAE

***Chondrodactylus bibronii* (Smith, 1846)**
Bibron's Thick-toed Gecko

ENDOPARASITES

Chondrodactylus bibronii occurs mainly in the Cape Provinces of the Republic of South Africa, barely extending into the adjacent Free State and Namibia (Branch 2004). They are gregarious and often live in dense colonies on rocky outcrops, but also under loose tree bark and around houses (Branch 2004). The following helminths: Cestoda, cyclophyllid metacestodes; Nematoda, *Skrjabinelazia ornata*, *Spauligodon smithi*; Acanthocephala, cystacanth were previously reported in *C. bibronii* (as *Pachydactylus bibronii*) by Goldberg and Bursey (2002a). The purpose of this note is to add to the helminth list of *C. bibronii*.

Twenty *C. bibronii* (mean SVL = 71.8 mm ± 5.0 mm, range: 60—79 mm) collected in 1970 from Botswana (n = 16), Kgalagadi District, 1 km W Tsabong and the Republic of South Africa, (n = 4) Northern Cape Province, 121 km N, 16 km E Upington and deposited in the herpetology collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. (Republic of South Africa LACM 82828-82831; Botswana LACM 82848, 82850-82854, 82857, 82858, 82861, 82862, 82864, 82868-82871, 82896, 82897) were examined for intestinal helminths. The stomachs had been previously removed and were not available for examination.

The body cavity was opened and the digestive tract was removed, opened longitu-

dinally, and examined under a dissecting microscope. One cestode and 953 nematodes were found. The cestode was regressively stained in hematoxylin and mounted in balsam. The nematodes were placed in a drop of glycerol on a glass slide, a cover slip was placed on top. The preparations (cestode and nematodes) were studied under a compound microscope. One cestode, assigned to *Ochoristica truncata,* was found in the small intestine of LACM 82828 (prevalence [number infected lizards/total lizards examined X 100] = 5%; mean intensity [mean number helminths per infected lizard ± 1 SD] = 1.0.) A total of 7 nematodes, assigned to *Parapharyngodon rotundatus* were found in the large intestine of LACM 82853, 82861, 82870 (prevalence = 15%; mean intensity = 2.3 ± 1.7 SD, range = 1-3) and a total of 946 nematodes, assigned to *Spauligodon smithi*, were found in the small and large intestines of 14 *C. bibronii* (prevalence = 70%; mean intensity = 67.6 ± 89.0 SD, range = 1-302). Voucher helminths were deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection (USNPC), Beltsville, Maryland as: *Oochoristica truncat*a (USNPC 105227), *Parapharyngodon rotundatus* (USNPC 105229), *Spauligodon smithi* (USNPC 105228).

Oochoristica truncata is widely distributed in Old World reptiles primarily from Africa and the Middle East; hosts are listed in McAllister et al. (2011). The life cycle of *O. truncata* is unknown but beetles serve as intermediate hosts of the congener *O. anolis* (Conn 1985). *Parapharyngodon rotundatus* is endemic to Africa and has been reported from a variety of lizards also listed in McAllister et al. (2011). *Spauligodon smithi* was originally described from *C.* (as *Pachydactylus*) *bibronii* by Bursey et al. (1997) and was subsequently reported from the same host by Goldberg and Bursey (2002a). It has been reported from *Adolfus jacksoni, Colopus wahlbergii, Meroles suborbitalis, Nucaras tessellata, Pedioplanis lineoocellata, Pedioplanis namaquensis*, and *Ptenopus garrulous*, (Goldberg & Bursey 2002a, 2002b, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009; McAllister et al. 2010). *Parapharyngodon rotundatus* and *Spauligodon smithi* have direct life cycles and infection most likely occurs by ingestion of eggs (Anderson 2000). *Chondrodactylus bibronii* represents a new host record for *Oochoristica truncata* and *Parapharyngodon rotundatus*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Jeannette Arreola (Whittier College) for assistance with dissections and Christine Thacker (LACM) for permission to examine specimens.

REFERENCES

ANDERSON. R. C. 2000. *Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates. Their Development and Transmission.* CABI PUBLISHING, OXFORDSHIRE, UK.

BRANCH, B. 2004. *Field Guide to Snakes and Other Reptiles of Southern Africa.* Ralph Curtis Books Publishing, Sanibel Island, Florida.

BURSEY, C. R., MCALLISTER, C. T., & FREED, P. S. 1997. *Spauligodon petersi* sp. n. and *Spauligodon smithi* sp. n. from lizards of Cape Province, South Africa. *Journal of the Helminthological Society of Washington* 64: 234-239.

CONN, D. B. 1985. Life cycle and postembryonic development of *Oochoristica anolis* (Cyclophyllidea: Linstowiidae). *Journal of Parasitology* 71: 10-16.

GOLDBERG, S. R., & BURSEY, C. R. 2002a. Helminths of four species of gekkonid lizards from southern Africa. *African Zoology* 37: 43-46.

GOLDBERG, S. R., & BURSEY, C. R. 2002b. Helminths of seven species of lacertid lizards from southern Africa. *African Zoology* 37: 159-164.

GOLDBERG, S. R., & BURSEY, C. R. 2004. Helminths of four species of African lizards. *African Zoology* 39: 111-114.

GOLDBERG , S. R., & BURSEY, C. R. 2005. *Pedioplanis lineoocellata* (Spotted sand lizard). Endoparasites. Herpetological Review 36: 64.

GOLDBERG, S. R., & BURSEY, C. R. 2006. *Collopus wahlbergii* (Wahlberg's Kalahari gecko). Endoparasites. *Herpetological Review* 37: 345.

GOLDBERG, S. R., & BURSEY, C. R. 2009. LACERTIDAE. *Adolfus jacksoni* Boulenger, 1899. Jackson's forest lizard. Endoparasites. *African Herp News* 48: 16-17.

MCALLISTER, C. T., BURSEY, C. R., AND FREED, P. S. 2010. Nematode parasites of some reptiles (Sauria: Testudines: Ophidia) from the northern and Western cape provinces , South Africa. *Journal of Parasitology* 96: 1021-1026.

MCALLISTER, C. T., BURSEY, C. R., AND FREED, P. S. 2011. Endoparasites (Cestoidea, Nematoda, Pentastomida) of reptiles (Sauria, Ophidia) from the Republic of Namibia. *Comparative Parasitology* 78: 140-151.

SUBMITTED BY:

STEPHEN R. GOLDBERG, Department of Biology, Whittier College, Whittier, California 90608, U.S.A. E-mail: sgoldberg@whittier.edu; and **CHARLES R. BURSEY,** Department of Biology, Pennsylvania State University, Shenango Campus, Sharon, Pennsylvania 16146, U.S.A. E-mail: cxb13@psu.edu.

*****