African Herp News

Newsletter of the Herpetological Association of Africa



HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

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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.

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

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTIONS

REPTILIA: SQUAMATA

COLUBRIDAE

Gonionotophis nyassae (Gunther, 1888)

Black File Snake

Nyondo (1729DC), 100 km east of Rundu, at 22h00 on the tarred road. Observed with Hennie Roets of the Crocodile Ranch and Snake Park.

This species is currently known from only three localities in Namibia (Griffen 2003), viz., Okapuka (2217AC), Grootfontein (1918AC) and Katima Mulilo (2724CA). In December, 2011, at 22h00 an adult male was found on the tarred road at Nyondo, 100 km east of Rundu in the Caprivi Strip. This new locality represents a range extension 312 km north-east of Grootfontein which is the nearest locality recorded for this species in Namibia. The snake regurgitated a *Lygosoma s. sundevalli*. The specimen has been deposited in the National Museum, Windhoek (SMR 1078/JV 95161).

REFERENCES

GRIFFIN, M. 2003. Annotated checklist and provisional conservation status of Namibian reptiles. Biodiversity Inventory, Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

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ELAPIDAE

Naja nivea Linnaeus, 1758 Cape Cobra

Namibia, Damaraland. 10 km south of the Brandberg West Mine (2114BA) collected by Gernot Ahrens, Windhoek (Fig. 1).

The most recently defined Namibian distribution for this species is south of Windhoek (Griffin 2003). The closest I have recorded this species south of Windhoek is 125 km south of Rheboth (2317AC). The Brandberg West Mine specimen is from 350 km north-west of Windhoek and represents a considerable extension of range for this species. The specimen has been deposited in the National Museum Windhoek under catalogue number SMR 1077.