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African Herp News

Newsletter of the Herpetological Association of Africa



REPTILIA: SQUAMATA; SERPENTES

COLUBRIDAE

Hemirhagerrhis viperina (Bocage, 1873)
Viperine Rock Snake

On 14 September 2006 the authors received from Mr. Piet Basson a small collection of reptiles he had made over a period of many years. Although these were without specific locality or date of collection, they were found within the confines of the Farm Varianto (farmhouse location: 19°23'06"S, 17°43'38"E, 1530 m), Tsumeb District, Oshikoto Region, Namibia. Among the snakes was a single *Hemirhagerrhis viperina* (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, MCZ R-18745). All but two of the previously reported records of this species are west of 16E°. One of these is an old record from Gobabis (Sternfeld 1910), but we suspect that this record may be in error as other specimens from Gobabis reported on by Sternfeld are doubtful (Bauer *et al.*, 2006). The nearest reported records to Farm Varianto are 62.1 km ESE Kamanjab (1915CD) and Farm Lichtenau (2016CC) (Broadley 1997), approximately 255 and 240 airline km distant, respectively.

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EIGHTH H.A.A. SYMPOSIUM:
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Venue: University of the North-West, Potchefstroom, Free State, South Africa.
Date: 26 November 2006

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman read the report from the previous General Meeting held at Bay World in Port Elizabeth in 2004.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2004 MEETING

1. During the last General Meeting the issue of overseas members serving on the H.A.A. committee was raised, as was the issue of voting rights for overseas members. Frank Farquharson was tasked to look into this matter. He recently reported back to me that according to the Association's Constitution there is nothing preventing overseas members serving on the committee, either as co-opted committee members without voting rights, or as full committee members with full voting rights. However, according to our Constitution, only African members of the Association may vote in committee elections. However, I now invite discussion on this matter.
2. At the last General Meeting it was suggested that page charges of R100 per page be instituted for non-members. However, this was subsequently increased and in Volume 54, Part 1, it was stated that page charges would be R200 per page for non-members. Alex Flemming noted that the old Instructions to Authors were still being used on the H.A.A. website until they were updated in mid-2006.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Earlier this year the H.A.A. held elections for a new committee. The new committee was constituted in April 2006 and consists of the following members: Myself as chairman, Mandi Alblas as Secretary and Treasurer, Alex Flemming as Journal Editor, Krystal Tolley as Associate Journal Editor, Angelo Lambiris as Newsletter Editor, Bill Branch as Chairman of the Editorial Committee, Ernst Baard as Nature Conservation Representative, Martin Whiting as Website Manager, and Louis du Preez as Public Relations Officer and Symposium Organiser. Because of a tie in votes for the fourth Additional Committee Member position, it was decided to make all five candidates committee members. However, because Mandi Alblas was nominated to and accepted the positions of both Secretary and Treasurer, the committee