

African Herp News

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GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTIONS

AMPHIBIA: ANURA

MICROHYLIDAE

Phrynomantis affinis Boulenger, 1901

Spotted Rubber Frog

Namibia, Erongo Region, Brandberg, 2114BA, 16 July 1987, J.O. Wirminghaus, Angelo J. Lambiris collection, AJL2782.

The details of the *Phrynomantis affinis* tadpole illustrated in du Preez & Carruthers (2009, A Complete Guide to the Frogs of Southern Africa. Struik Nature, Cape Town, South Africa, Pp. 488) from the Brandberg extends the known distribution of this rare species by 275 km from Ombutjomatamba, Namibia (2017CA) in the north-east. This locality also extends the known range westward by 150 km for the species in Namibia as a whole from Oshigambo (1716CC), 19 km NNE of Odangwa and which is 375 km north of the Brandberg.

Acknowledgments

Louis du Preez answered queries on the source of the material for his and Carruthers' description of the Brandberg *P. affinis* tadpole. Angelo Lambiris sent details of the Brandberg *P. affinis* tadpole and a digital photograph of it which also served to verify his original identification. He generously gave permission to use his catalogued details for this note.

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REPTILIA: CHELONIA

TESTUDINIDAE

Kinixys spekii Gray, 1863

Speke's Hinged Tortoise

Namibia, 110 km north of Grootfontein, 1818DB, S 18° 54', E 18° 47', 6 March, 2010, J.D. Visser.

The distribution of *Kinixys spekii* in Namibia has been recorded as the northern districts of Okavango and the Caprivi districts, specifically the Mamili and Mudumu National Parks, the Mahango Game Reserve and the Caprivi and Popa Falls Game

Parks (Griffin 2003. Annotated checklist and provisional conservation status of Namibian reptiles. Namibia Scientific Society, Windhoek, Pp. 169). The same source mentions an unconfirmed record for Nkurenkuru (1718DA).

At 10:00 on 6 March 2010, a female *Kinixys spekii* crossed the B8 highway 110 km north of Grootfontein (S 18 54, E 18 47, 1818DB). in an area of forest savanna and woodland in the Omuramba catchment area. This record is 320 km from Popa Falls Game Park, the nearest confirmed locality (Griffin, op.cit.) and is 142 km from Nkurenkuru. Length to height ratio of the specimen was 2.4 (length = 150 mm, height of shell = 64 mm). Scapulation details are as per Boycott & Bourquin (2000, The southern African Tortoise Book. O. Bourquin, P.O. Box 1083, Hilton, 3245, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Pp. 228) viz., vertebrals = 5, costals = 4 pairs, and marginals = 1. As the specimen was not collected and Figure 1 serves as the voucher.



Fig. 1: Dorsal (top), and ventral (bottom) views of a Speke's Hinged Tortoise collected 110 km North of Grootfontein, Namibia.

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TESTUDINIDAE

***Psammobates oculifer* Kuhl, 1820**

Serrated Tortoise

Zimbabwe, Matabeleland North Province, Hwange District, Hwange National Park, sand ridge north of Ndodanna gate on the southern boundary of the National Park (Chemuumi vlei), S 19°16', E 27°16' (1927AD) approximately 1020 masl. Four specimens were seen by J.H. on 16 and 17 December 2008. On 21 May 2009 a dark juvenile was photographed and on 1 October 2009 a pale adult was photographed (Fig. 1 & 2). The species has only been seen on this one sand ridge.

These records are the first for Zimbabwe and represent a north-easterly range extension of approximately 150 km from the nearest Botswana locality near Nata (Boycott & Branch, 1989, *in* Swingland & Klemens (eds), *The Conservation Biology of Tortoises*, *Occ. Pap. IUCN Species Surv. Comm.* 5: 1-202).

This area in the south of the Hwange National Park is classified as Central Kalahari Tree/Shrub Savanna (Wild & Grandvaux Barbosa, 1968, *Flora Zambesiaca Supplement – Vegetation Map*), with *Acacia leuderitzii*, *A. erioloba*, *Lonchocarpus nelsii*, *Baikiaea plurijuga*, *Ochna pulchra*, *Terminalia sericea* and *Baphia massaiensis*. This vegetation type is replaced south of the Chemuumi vlei by savanna woodland, mainly *Colophospermum mopane*.



Fig. 1: Dorsal view of a Serrated Tortoise observed in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.