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LACERTIDAE

***Meroles reticulatus* Bocage, 1867**
Reticulate Sand Lizard

REPRODUCTION

Meroles reticulatus is known from coastal areas of the northern Namib Desert from near Walvis Bay to southern Angola (Branch, 1998: *Field Guide to Snakes and other Reptiles of Southern Africa*. Third edition. Struik, Cape Town). Additionally, Branch (1998, *op. cit.*) reports that a female from October contained four large eggs. In this note I add information on *M. reticulatus* reproduction including clutch size and timing of egg production. The first information on the testicular cycle, and minimum sizes for male and female reproductive activity are also presented.

Thirteen *M. reticulatus* from the Erongo Region, Namibia deposited in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), Los Angeles, California were examined. The sample included six males (SVL (mean \pm SD) = 48.5 mm \pm 3.8 mm, range: 41 – 51 mm), three females (SVL (mean \pm SD) = 47.3 mm \pm 2.1 mm, range: 45 – 49 mm), and four juveniles (SVL (mean \pm SD) = 35.3 \pm 2.5 SD, range: 34 – 39 mm) collected in November 1972 and January 1976 (LACM 77669, 77675 – 77685, 127488).

For histological examination, the left testis was removed from males to study the testicular cycle and the left ovary was removed from females to check for the presence of vitellogenesis (yolk deposition) and/or corpora lutea. Counts were made of oviductal eggs. Slides were stained with Harris haematoxylin followed by eosin counterstain. Histology slides were deposited at LACM. An unpaired t-test was used to compare male versus female body sizes (SVL) using Instat vers. 3.0b, Graphpad Software, San Diego, CA.

There was no significant size difference between male and female mean body sizes (unpaired *t*-test, *P* = 0.645). The only stage observed in the testicular cycle was sperm formation (= spermiogenesis) in which the seminiferous tubules are lined by groups of spermatozoa and/or metamorphosing spermatids. This condition was observed in November (*n* = 6). The smallest reproductively active male measured 41 mm (LACM 77679) and was collected November 1972.

One female (LACM 77682) from November exhibited early yolk deposition and would have subsequently produced eggs. One female (LACM 77681) from November measured 45 mm SVL and was reproductively inactive. The smallest reproductively active female (LACM 127488) measured 48 mm SVL, was collected in January, and contained three oviductal eggs - a new minimum clutch size for the species.

Of four subadult *M. reticulatus* from November, three measured 34 mm, and one measured 39 mm. The gonads of the three 34 mm *M. reticulatus* were extremely small and their sex could not be reliably determined; the 39 mm specimen was a female with inactive ovarian follicles.

The congeneric *Meroles cuneirostris* from Namibia (Goldberg & Robinson, 1979: *Herpetologica* 35: 169–175) exhibited a prolonged reproductive cycle with a short period of inactivity in austral autumn. *Meroles suborbitalis* from South Africa (Goldberg, 2006: *Texas Journal of Science* 58: 250–262) also followed a prolonged period of reproduction. Examination of *M. reticulatus* from additional months are needed to fully characterize its reproductive cycle.

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Submitted by

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LACERTIDAE

***Pedioplanis undata* A. Smith 1838**
Western Sand Lizard

REPRODUCTION

Pedioplanis undata occurs from southern Angola to northern and central Namibia (Branch, 1998). There is a report from a field guide that mating occurs in November – January and young hatch in January – March (Branch, 1998). In this note I add information on *P. undata* reproduction including a clutch size and the first information on the testicular cycle.

Seventeen *P. undata* from Namibia deposited in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), Los Angeles, California collected 1972 and 1973 were examined. These included specimens from Erongo Region (LACM 77521, 77529 – 77531, 77533 – 77538), Khomas Region (LACM 77743, 77749), and Otjozondjupa Region (LACM 77749, 77750, 77776, 77784, 77832). The samples consisted of 13 males (SVL (mean \pm SD) = 49.7 mm \pm 4.8, range: 43 – 58 mm), three females (SVL (mean \pm SD) = 50.0 mm \pm 2.6, range: 47 – 52 mm) and 1 subadult (SVL = 38.0 mm). Lizards were collected between 31 October and 12 November 1972, during November 1972 or during November 1973.

For histological examination, the left testis was removed from males to study the testicular cycle and the left ovary was removed from females to check for the presence of vitellogenesis (yolk deposition) and/or corpora lutea. Counts were made of oviductal eggs. Slides were stained with Harris haematoxylin followed by eosin counterstain. Histology slides were deposited at LACM. An unpaired t-test was used to compare male versus female body sizes (SVL).