

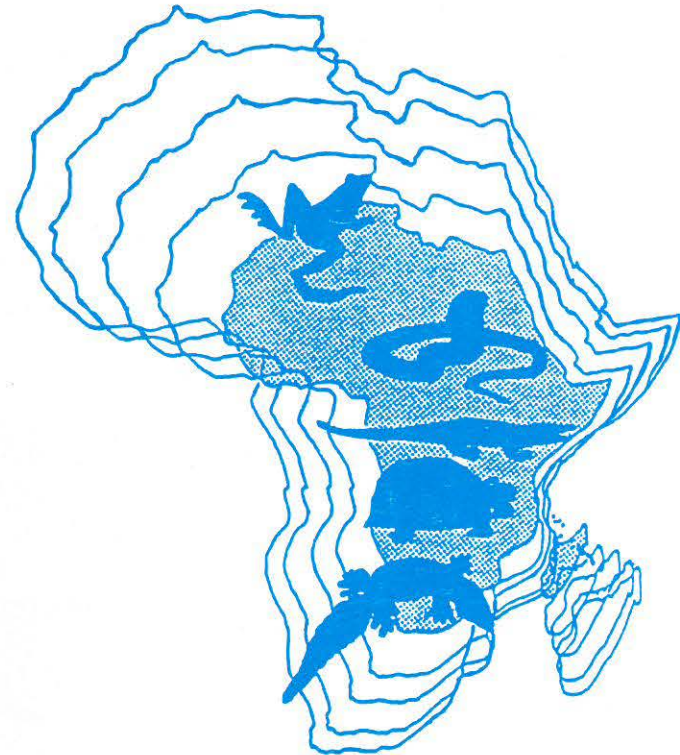
## AFRICAN HERP NEWS

NO. 26: JULY 1997

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## AFRICAN HERP NEWS

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA  
NEWSLETTER

JULY 1997

NO. 26

**MABUYA CHIMBANA** Boulenger, 1887: Chimba Skink; Namibia, Epupa district; three localities: i) 6 km E of Etengua (17°28'S, 13°06'E; 1713AC); 19 April 1976; W.D. Haacke; Transvaal Museum, TM 49007; ii) 8 km SW of Etengua (17°30'S, 13°00'E, 1712DB); 22 April 1976; W.D. Haacke; seven specimens: TM 49130-49135, 49217; iii) near Okakuju (1712DD); 14 March 1992; U. Joger; TM 71424. All collected on granite boulders in hilly mopane veld. Broadley (1975, *Arnoldia* 7[18]: 1-16) verified the validity of this species and provided a distribution map on which the most southern record in Angola is at 1513CA, although the record from Rio Coroca (MBL 825) was probably from near the mouth of that river (1511DD) which is slightly further south. At that stage this species was known only from Angola. These records extend the known range by about two degrees (or 250 km) southwards and into Namibia. This species has been listed as occurring south of the Kunene River (Haacke in Branch *et al.*, 1988, *J. Herpetol. Assoc. Afr.* 34: 1-19; Branch, 1988, *Field Guide to the Snakes and other Reptiles of Southern Africa*, Struik, Cape Town) based on the above-listed specimens, but their details have not been published until now. The general description given by Broadley (*op. cit.*) also fits these specimens.

Submitted by: W.D. HAACKE (Department of Herpetology, Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria 0001, South Africa).

#### LACERTIDAE

**NUCRAS INTERTEXTA** (A. Smith, 1838): Spotted Sandveld Lizard; Zimbabwe, Hwange district, Dete Vlei (1827CA); 9 February 1997; G.S.A. Rasmussen; Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe, NMZB 14. Found freshly killed on a road passing along the ecotone between the dambo and *Baikiaea* woodland. This juvenile resembles the Namibian specimen illustrated by Broadley (1972, *Arnoldia Rhod.* 5[20], pl. iii, fig. 8), with three dorsal rows of cream spots and strong black and cream vertical barring on the flanks from head to groin.

This is the first record of the species from Hwange district. The nearest other records are 190 km to the south-east at Inyokene in Nyamandhlovu district, and 470 km SSW at "Lake" Ngami, indicating that it probably occurs throughout north-eastern Botswana and the Hwange National Park.

Submitted by: D.G. BROADLEY & G.S.A. RASMUSSEN (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P.O. Box FM730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe).

#### AMPHISBAENIA

##### AMPHISBAENIDAE

**DALOPHIA ELLENBERGERI** (Angel, 1920): Ellenberger's Worm-Lizard; Angola, Cuando-Cubango district, 50 km east of Cuito-Cuanavale (1519BA); 1 April 1988; C.J. McCartney; Port Elizabeth Museum, PEM R4818. An adult female measuring 330+43 mm, midbody diameter 4.7 mm. Head scalation typical, ca. 343 body annuli, 30 caudal annuli, the eighth being the autotomy annulus, 18 dorsal + 12 ventral segments to a midbody annulus.

This specimen was misidentified as *Dalophia pistillum* by Branch & McCartney (1992, *J. Herpetol. Assoc. Afr.* 41: 1-3).

This is the first record of *D. ellenbergeri* from Angola and represents a westward range extension of 325 km from Kalabo in western Zambia, where the species appeared to be endemic to a stretch of the upper Zambezi floodplain extending from Balovale downstream to Lukona Mission. However, this specimen has a short tail, with only 30 caudal annuli, the minimum recorded for the species; only two specimens out of 47 have counts below 35.

*Dalophia angolensis* Gans, 1976, was distinguished from *D. ellenbergeri* by its more robust build and shorter tail, with only 20-27 caudal annuli (30-45 in *D. ellenbergeri*). Calombe, the type locality for *D. angolensis*, is 375 km almost due north of the locality for PEM R4818, but the Balovale specimen of

*D. ellenbergeri* is from only 70 km south of the locality for the solitary Zambian specimen of *D. angolensis*. It is possible that when more material is collected from the intervening area the two forms will be found to be linked by a cline. In any case it seems doubtful whether *D. angolensis* is more than a northern race of *D. ellenbergeri*.

Submitted by: D.G. BROADLEY (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P.O. Box FM730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe).

#### SERPENTES

##### COLUBRIDAE

**PROSYMNA SUNDEVALLII LINEATA** (Peters, 1871): Lineolate Shovel-snout Snake; South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, Ubombo district, Mkuzi Game Reserve (27°38'S, 32°10'E; 2732CA); 30 April 1980; P. Goodman; Transvaal Museum, TM 62833. A juvenile snake (110+14=124 mm) collected in sandveld woodland. Scutellation: ventrals 141; subcaudals 23; scale rows: head 14, mid-

body 15, vent 13, anal entire; upper labials 6 (3rd and 4th entering orbit); lower labials 8 (first three in contact with chin shields); postoculars 2; preoculars 2; loreal 1; 47 faint dark brown spots on the back and eight on the tail.

This subspecies was known from KwaZulu-Natal from a single specimen collected at Dukuduku by Dr G. van Son in December 1956 (TM 24369). This record was repeated by Broadley (1983, *FitzSimons' Snakes of Southern Africa*, Delta Books, Johannesburg), but Bruton & Haacke (1980, *Studies on the Ecology of Maputaland*, Rhodes University and Natal Wildlife Society, Grahamstown, 560 pp.) did not include this subspecies in their account of the herpetofauna of Zululand. The above specimen appears to be only the second known for Zululand and the KwaZulu-Natal province.

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Submitted by: G.V. HAAGNER (P.O. Box 702, Hoedspruit 1380, South Africa).



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