

AFRICAN HERP NEWS

No. 36

December 2003

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	1
SHORT COMMUNICATIONS	
MENEGON M et al. Nguu North forest reserve, Tanzania	2
NATURAL HISTORY NOTES	
CUNNINGHAM PL & W ADANK. <i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	9
CUNNINGHAM PL & W ADANK. <i>Pachydactylus turneri</i>	10
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	
RASMUSSEN JB. <i>Micrelaps vaillanti</i>	12
SCHMIDT WR & SCOTT E. <i>Lamprophis swazicus</i>	14
DU TOIT DA & ALBLAS A. <i>Nucras livida</i>	15
ESTERHUIZEN A et al. <i>Varanus albigularis</i>	16
BROADLEY DG & VAN DAELE P. <i>Colopus wahlbergi</i>	20
BAUER AM & LAMB T. <i>Pachydactylus fasciatus</i>	20
HERPETOLOGICAL SURVEYS	
CUNNINGHAM M et al. Cockscomb Mt, South Africa	22
RECENT AFRICAN HERPETOLOGICAL LITERATURE	26
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS	38
HAA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	40

ISSN 1017-6187

AFRICAN HERP NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA



No. 36

December 2003

GEKKONIDAE***Colopus wahlbergii wahlbergii* Peters, 1869****Kalahari Ground Gecko**

Zambia, Southern Province, Kazungula District, Kalamba Station on the old Zambezi Sawmill Railway (1725DA); 24 November 2002; Paul Van Daele; Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe NMZB 16974.

Specimen found at a depth of 20 cm in Kalahari sand while excavating a nest of mole rats (*Cryptomys*). It is a female measuring 58 + 38 mm. The head is large, with a blunt snout, as is typical of *Colopus*; the claws on the toes are barely distinguishable. The dorsum is pale brown with darker mottling and dark speckling on the tail.

This is the first Zambian record for this secretive fossorial species, the nearest previous record being from Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side, about 35 km to the southeast (Broadley & Spawls, 1991, *J. Herpetol. Assoc. Afr.* 39: 19). Haacke (1998, *Afr. Herp News* 27: 20) has recorded this species from several localities in northern Botswana and from near the W bank of the Kwando River in the Caprivi, the latter locality is about 250 km W of Kalamba Station. It seems likely that this species will eventually be found in Angola.

Submitted by

Donald G. Broadley (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P.O. Box FM 730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe) and Paul Van Daele (P.O. Box 61189, Livingstone, Zambia).

Pachydactylus fasciatus* Boulenger 1888*Banded thick-toed gecko**

Namibia, Karas Region, Karasburg District, Warmbad (2818BC), 28°26'S 18°44'E, 800 m asl. Collected by C. R. Owen 21 March 1994. TM 79074.

This juvenile specimen represents the southernmost record for the species. All earlier confirmed records of *P. fasciatus* are from the Erongo and Kunene Regions of northwestern Namibia (Bauer & Branch 1991, *J. Herpetol. Assoc. Afr.* 39:1-5), where it is locally abundant under stones on the ground or, more rarely, under the bark of fallen trees (pers. obs.). The veracity of an older record from Kuibis [Guibes] (2616DB) had previously been questioned (Bauer

& Branch, *op. cit.*), but the new Warmbad record lends credence to the possibility that *P. fasciatus* does occur at Kuibis and perhaps ranges continuously from northwestern Namibia almost to the Orange River. Records from the Northern and Western Cape Provinces of South Africa, however, are all the result of mis-identifications, and an old record from Walvis Bay (2214CD) probably reflects the point of shipment of the specimen rather than its point of collection (Bauer & Branch, *op. cit.*). Warmbad is 270 km southeast of the outlying Kuibis locality and 750 km south-southeast of the established contiguous range of the species. Despite specific climatic, physiographic, and vegetational differences, both the northern and southern localities of *P. fasciatus* fall within, or along the more mesic edge of, the Nama-Karoo biome (Irish 1994, *Navors. nas. Mus., Bloemfontein* 10: 549-592.).

Submitted by

Aaron M. Bauer (Department of Biology, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085, USA; aaron.bauer@villanova.edu) and Trip Lamb (Department of Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina 27858, USA; lamba@mail.ecu.edu)