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The HAA is dedicated to the study and conservation of African reptiles and amphibians. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the African herpetofauna. Members receive the Association's journal, *African Journal of Herpetology* (which publishes review papers, research articles, and short communications – subject to peer review) and *African Herp News*, the Newsletter (which includes short communications, natural history notes, geographical distribution notes, herpetological survey reports, venom and snakebite notes, book reviews, bibliographies, husbandry hints, announcements and news items).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTE

Articles shall be considered for publication provided that they are original and have not been published elsewhere. Articles will be submitted for peer review at the Editor's discretion. Authors are requested to submit manuscripts by e-mail in MS Word '.doc' or '.docx' format.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *Smaug giganteus* from near Harrismith South Africa. Photograph by: Stuart Nielsen. Nikon D90 (1/1500, F5.6, ISO 400).

Leone. This is the fifth species of *Dipsadoboa* reported from the CAR, as Chirio & Ineich (2006) listed *D. duchesnei*, *D. unicolor*, *D. v. viridis* and *D. weileri*.

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GEKKONIDAE

Pachydactylus fasciatus Boulenger, 1888 Banded Thick-toed Gecko

On October 20th 2011, 06:00 a female *Pachydactylus fasciatus* (Fig. 1) was found and photographed by Rupert Huber under the roof of Fisherman's Inn Restaurant's facilities, Namibia, Swakopmund District, road C 34 between Hentiesbaai and Cape Cross, 21°54'15,4" S, 14°06'53,5" E, altitude 6 m a.s.l. The animal was not collected as a voucher specimen because of a lack of collecting permits, and was therefore released at the point of capture. The animal was in very good condition and well nourished.

Distribution of *P. fasciatus* has been reported as northern Damaraland and Kaokoveld (Branch 1998). The legitimacy of a record from Walvis Bay in the Zoological Museum Berlin (ZMB 44031) has been questioned by Bauer & Branch (1991), as the specimen is suspected to be *Chondrodactylus laevigatus* or is otherwise mislabeled. Walvis Bay is suspected to be the place of shipping for this specimen rather than its locality (Bauer & Branch 1991; Bauer & Lamb 2003). Other rather unusual records are known from Kuibis (ZMB 23374) as well as Warmbad (TM 79074). Although the locality of the Kuibis record has been questioned by Bauer & Branch (1991), it was later regarded as a possibly legitimate record (Bauer & Lamb 2003). The above specimen marks another unusual record of *P. fasciatus* outside the distribution area given by Branch (1998) and almost at the Namibian coast, where no other record has been reported yet beside the specimen from Walvis Bay.



Figure 1: Adult female *Pachydactylus fasciatus*, photographed at Fisherman's Inn, Swakopmund District, Namibia.

Banded Thick-toed geckos usually inhabit crevices in rocky outcrops and are also found under stones in rocky areas. The Fisherman's Inn is not surrounded by suitable habitat for *P. fasciatus*, which makes it highly likely that this specimen was introduced to the area by humans. However, taking into account the assumptions from Bauer & Lamb (2003) regarding distribution of *P. fasciatus* in southern Namibia and the ability of *P. fasciatus* to adapt to changing environments very well (Barts 2002; Barts & Schneider pers. obs.), it can not be ruled out that *P. fasciatus* in fact naturally occurs in this area as well as Walvis Bay, although we regard it as unlikely.

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GEKKONIDAE

***Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau De Jonnès, 1818)**
Moreau's Tropical House Gecko

On October 24th 2011, 20:00 a *Hemidactylus mabouia* was found and photographed (Fig. 1) by Rupert Huber at the facilities of Sossus Oasis campsite, Sesriem, Maltahöhe District, Namibia, 24°29'33,7" S, 15°48'13,4" E, altitude 786 m a.s.l.. The animal was not collected as a voucher specimen due to the lack of collecting permits, and the gecko was therefore released at the point of capture. The animal was in good condition.

Hemidactylus mabouia is native to parts of south and central Africa and its range within sub-Saharan Africa is extending rapidly due to accidental translocation by humans. Haagner & Branch (1996) report a record from Bedford, Eastern Cape Province, where a specimen was found in a cargo truck. Furthermore they observed a specimen at Port Elizabeth harbour which originated from a Durban cargo ship. Douglas (1990) reports another population from Bloemfontein, Free State Province, which was established from translocated individuals. Sesriem is a popular accommodation spot for tourists visiting Sossusvlei Dunes, and it is therefore very likely that the animal was introduced to the locality by visitors to the site.

Broadley (1977) shows a map (p. 11) of the distribution of Moreau's Tropical House Gecko in Southern Africa. It shows a record from the Caprivi-Strip (near Ngala, Chobe River) and is so far the only record from Namibia, although not listed under the localities. The specimen from Sesriem is the western most record of *H. mabouia* to date, compared to its former most western record in the Okavango Delta, Botswana, approximately 1160 km to the east (Broadley, 1977).

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