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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: *Naja (Boulengerina) annulata annulata* from Lagoa Carumbo, Lunda Norte, Angola. Photograph by: Bill Branch.

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GEKKONIDAE

Pachydactylus rangei (Andersson, 1908)

Web-footed Gecko

Small dune hummocks along the Orange River, Sperrgebiet National Park (ca. 80km east of Oranjemund and 30km southwest of Rosh Pinah, S28.10 E16.51), Namibia. Sparsely vegetated – mainly stunted *Euclea pseudebenus* trees and shrubs – sandy area between the Orange River riparian vegetation and ancient gravel terraces in December 2012. Observed by Peter Cunningham. 6 specimens – photographed (Fig. 1).

According to Koch (1962), Haacke (1976) and Visser (1984) *Pachydactylus* (formerly *Palmatogekko*) *rangei* occurs from the mouth of the Orange River to southern Angola and never further inland than 160 km. They are common in the sand sea south of the Kuiseb River as well as the coastal dunes and ephemeral river beds in the Namib Desert (Haacke 1976, Stuart 1980, Russell & Bauer 1990), mostly associated with fine sand and rainfall below 125mm p.a. (Haacke 1976) and fog (Louw 1972, Seely & Griffin 1986). It is estimated that 80% of the potential proportion of the taxon's range falls within Namibia (Griffin 1985) and it is viewed as a Namib Desert endemic (Herrman & Branch 2012).

Records of *Pachydactylus (Palmatogecko) rangei* along the Orange River are sparse although their presence on the South African side is documented as up to Sendelingsdrift (TM 22977–81, 34191–4) although recent fieldwork did not locate them there again, possibly indicating extirpation (Bauer & Branch 2003). On the Namibian side, inland along the Orange River, they have been recorded just south of Daberas (i.e. ca. 20km west of Sendelingsdrift) (Griffin 2003). They are common at Oranjemund and the Obib dune area approximately 40km northwest (inland) of Sendelingsdrift (Bauer & Branch 2003).

These sightings of *Pachydactylus (Palmatogecko) rangei* in the Sendelingsdrift area were made between 20h00 and 23h00 on 10 and 11 December 2012 with ambient temperatures varying between 18°C and 24°C during a vertebrate fauna survey conducted prior to planned diamond mining in the area.



Figure 1: *Pachydactylus rangei* from 30 km west of Rosh Pinah, Namibia, along the Orange River.

This range extension eastwards of at least 20km inland along the Namibian side of the Orange River is probably determined by suitable sandy dune habitat which is generally patchily distributed further inland compared to the coastal and inland sand sea areas. The area from the Sendelingsdrift ferry further inland (eastwards) – i.e. towards Aussenkehr and Noordoewer – is probably less favourable for *Pachydactylus (Palmatogecko) rangei* due to fewer patches of suitable sandy dune habitat along the Orange River. Although widespread in suitable habitat in Namibia, threats include irrigation along the Orange River (especially on the South African side); housing development (Walvis Bay to Swakopmund areas); mining and illegal collecting (Bauer *In press*). Increased mining activity along the Orange River in the Sperrgebiet National Park may further compromise these pockets of *Pachydactylus (Palmatogecko) rangei* associated with suitable riparian dune areas.

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