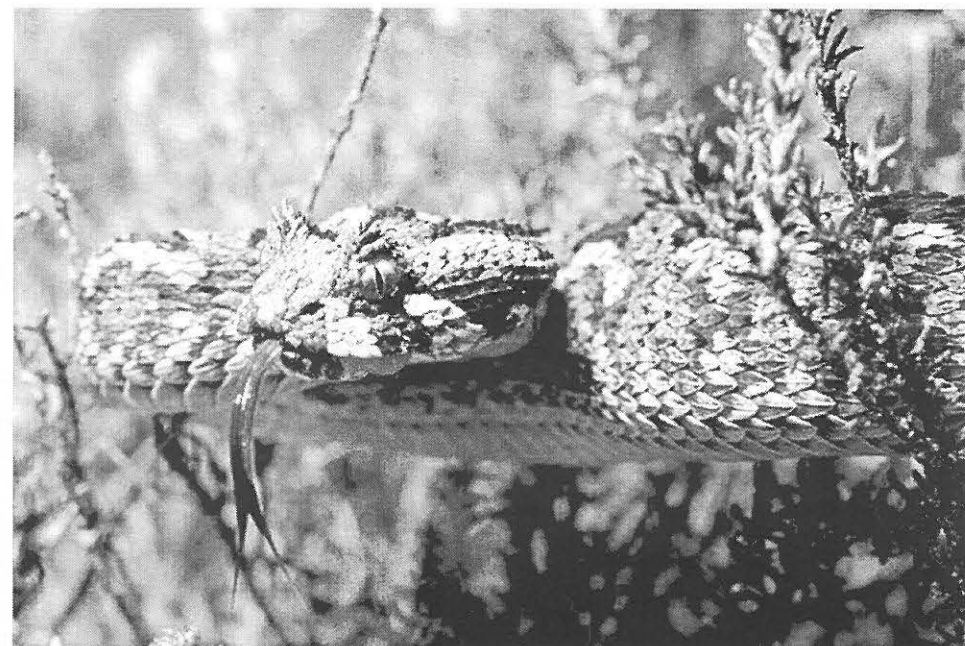


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African Herp News

Newsletter of the Herpetological Association of Africa



SCINCIDAE

Acontias meleagris (Linnaeus, 1758)
Cape Legless Skink

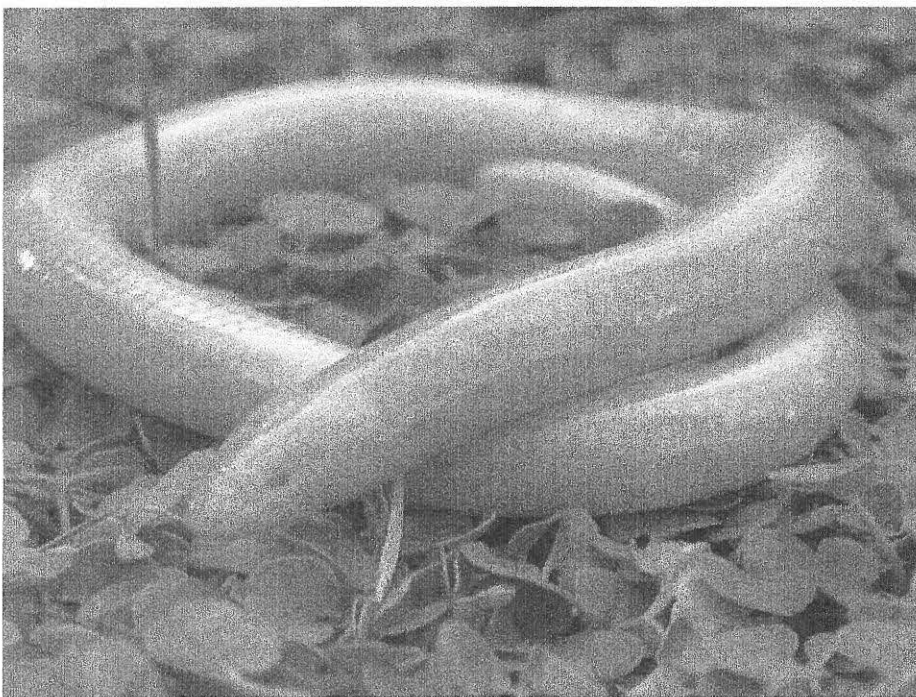
XANTHIC SPECIMEN

A xanthic morph of *Acontias meleagris* specimen was discovered in a garden at Baron van Reede Street, Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, South Africa (33°34' 48"S, 22°12'19"E; 3322CA), on 22 May 2005 (Fig 1).

This specimen lacked any markings, and had an SVL of 208 mm. Identification was based on distribution (Branch, 1998. *Field Guide to Snakes and Other Reptiles*. Struik Publishers, Cape Town). This specimen record was submitted into the *South Africa Reptile Conservation Assessment* (SARCA) database (Photo ref 465).

Submitted by

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Xanthic *Acontias meleagris*.

Photo: Johannes Els

LACERTIDAE

Pedioplanis inornata (Roux, 1907)
Plain Sand Lizard

MAXIMUM SIZE

On 14 June 2005 an exceptionally large specimen of *Pedioplanis inornata* was collected on an exposed shale platform covered with loose shards and slabs of rock at Konkiep, Bethanie District, Karas Region, Namibia (26°44'56"S, 17°13'16"E; 2617CA). The female specimen (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University MCZ R-184254) measures 56.0 mm SVL and has a tail length (partly regenerated) of 92.7 mm.

Branch (1998. *Field Guide to Snakes and Other Reptiles*. Struik Publishers, Cape Town) gave the average size range of this species as 45-50 mm SVL, with a maximum of 52 mm. The new specimen represents an 8% increase in maximum length. This specimen may be referred to the "southern form" of *P. inornata* (Mayer, W. & Berger-Dell'mour, H., 1986. The *Pedioplanis undata* complex (Sauria, Lacertidae) in Namibia. A system of parapatric species and subspecies, pp. 275-278 in van Gelder, J.J., Strijbosch, H. & Bergers, P.J.M., eds., *Proceedings of the 4th Ordinary General Meeting of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica*. Catholic University of Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands).

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VARANIDAE

Varanus albigularis (Daudin, 1802)
Rock Monitor

DIET

In September 2005, a large (540mm snout-vent length; 570mm tail, slightly truncated) male Rock Monitor, *Varanus albigularis* (Daudin, 1802) was brought to Bayworld by a member of the public, having been found dead-on-road in the Port Elizabeth region (exactly locality unrecorded).

Dissection of the gut revealed three subadult Angulate Tortoises, *Chersina angulata* (Schweigger, 1812), in the stomach, and the scutes of at least two other *Chersina* in the hind gut. The only other identifiable items in the gut included a single large tenebrionid beetle and a small piece of wood in the hind gut. The tortoises in the stomach measured 59-67mm total length, and all had been swallowed