African Herp News

Newsletter of the Herpetological Association of Africa



Number 58

DECEMBER 2012

SUBMITTED BY:

WERNER CONRADIE, Department of Herpetology, Bayworld, P.O. Box 13147, Humewood, Port Elizabeth 6013, South Africa. E-mail: werner@bayworld.co.za, JAN VENTER, Department of Biodiversity Conservation, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, Southernwood, East London, South Africa. E-mail: Jan.Venter@ecpta.co.za, & JUSTIN RHYS NICOLAU, Sunninghill Gardens, P.O. Box 11381, Sunninghill, South Africa, E-mail: j.nicolau@hotmail.co.uk.

LACERTIDAE

Nucras taeniolata (Smith, 1838) Albany Sandveld Lizard

A single intact male *Nucras taeniolata* was found in the stomach contents of a road -kill *Varanus albigularis* (Conradie, 2012, this volume). *Nucras taeniolata* is a poorly documented species which has a restricted distribution within the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. Branch & Burger (2009) reports that only 33 specimens exist in museum collections, and that these are restricted to two populations within the Eastern Cape Province (from Groendal Wilderness Area to Addo National Elephant Park, and from the Thomas Baines Nature Reserve to the Great Fish River Reserves), representing only 11 quarter-degree grid squares (QDGS). This specimen from 3226DC represents a new QDGS record for the species. The closest documented record is 17 km east in the Doubledrift Nature Reserve (3226DD). The specimen has been lodged in the Port Elizabeth Museum under catalogue number PEM R20208. This new record shows the importance of collecting road-kills and analyzing stomach contents (see also Branch & Haagner, 1999) in documenting the distribution of poorly known species.

Another notable record of this species is a recently deposited specimen in the Port Elizabeth Museum from the Gamtoos Valley near Thornhill (PEM R20003), now representing the most southern record for the species (3325CC) as well as the recent additional of six specimens to the PEM collection from the Groendal Wilderness Area (PEM R20188–20193; and see cover image), bringing the total of preserved specimens of this species up to 40 and adding an additional two QDGS cells to the species distribution map.

REFERENCES

- BRANCH, W. R & BURGER, M. 2009. *Nucras taeniolata*: Additional Records. Herpetological Bulletin 107: 40 41.
- BRANCH, R. & HAAGNER, G.V. 1999. Geographical distribution: *Psammophis brevirostris* and *Acontias* sp.: the value of road kills. African Herp News 30: 37 38.
- CONRADIE, W. 2012. Varanus albigularis (Daudin, 1802) Diet. African Herp News 58: 15-16.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Brian Reeves and Lindi Eloff (Eastern Cape Parks Board & Tourism Agency) are thanked for funding and coordinating the Herpetological survey of Groendal Wilderness Area.

SUBMITTED BY:

WERNER CONRADIE, Department of Herpetology, Port Elizabeth Museum, Bayworld, P.O. Box 13147, Humewood, Port Elizabeth 6013, South Africa. E-mail: werner@bayworld.co.za.
