

A PROVISIONAL AND ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE HERPETOFAUNA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editor: W. R. BRANCH¹

Subeditors: E. H. W. BAARD², W. D. HAACKE³,
N. JACOBSEN⁴, J. C. POYNTON⁵ and D. G. BROADLEY⁶

¹ Port Elizabeth Museum, P.O. Box 13147, Humewood, 6013; ² Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Jonkershoek Research Station, P. Bag 5014, Stellenbosch, 7600; ³ Transvaal Museum, P. O. Box 413, Pretoria 0001; ⁴ Transvaal Division of Nature Conservation, P. Bag X209, Pretoria, 0001; ⁵ Department of Biology, University of Natal, Durban, Natal; ⁶ Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 240, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

In June 1986 a meeting of interested herpetologists was convened in Stellenbosch under the auspices of the CSIR to discuss the proposed revision of the South African Red Data Book - Reptiles and Amphibians (RDB-RA). A difficulty, obvious at the outset, was the absence of a checklist of the subcontinent's herpetofauna from which to select RDB-RA candidate species. It was decided that the preparation of a provisional checklist of the herpetofauna of the subcontinent was an essential first step towards a meaningful revision of the RDB-RA.

An editor (WRB) was selected to overview the preparation of these projects and the formal publication of the revised RDB-RA (Branch, 1988a). Subeditors for the four main groups, i.e. amphibians (JCP), chelonians (EB), lizards (WDH and NJ) and snakes (WRB) were chosen to prepare provisional checklists. These were collated into a provisional checklist of the subcontinent's herpetofauna, that was then circulated to the herpetological community in South Africa for comments and amendments. The final checklist was reviewed by D. G. Broadley.

This document is a collaborative venture and is intended to assist researchers interested in the subcontinent's herpetofauna. It is an initial step towards the publication of a more formal checklist that will include typification, major synonymies and distributions. Annotations to the checklist were supplied by the following herpetologists: E. Baard (EB), H. Berger-Dell'mour (HBD), O. Bourquin (OB), R. Boycott (RB), W. R. Branch (WRB), D. G. Broadley (DGB), A. Channing (AC), A. de Villiers (AdV), D. Frost (DF), J. C. Greig (JG), M. Griffin (MG), W. D. Haacke (WDH), N. Jacobsen (NJ), C. Leonard (CL), G. McLachlan (GM), P. leF. Mouton (PléM), J. C. Poynton (JCP), L. Raw (LR), S. Spawls (SS), D. E. van Dijk (DEvD).

General annotations concerning recent (post-1970) taxonomic changes to the region's herpetofauna were added by the editor to make the checklist more useful to readers unfamiliar with the recent taxonomic literature. Particular thanks are due to Angelo Lambiris (AL) for his additional useful and detailed annotations.

The area covered (map 1) is that of the traditionally defined subcontinent, i.e. that region south of the Cunene and Zambezi Rivers, including: the Republic of South Africa (of which the enclosed independent States of the Transkei, Ciskei, Venda and Bophuthatswana are considered part), Lesotho, Swaziland, South West Africa/Namibia and the Caprivi Strip, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mocambique south of the Zambezi River. Offshore, continental coastal islands are included (the South African oceanic Prince Edward, Marion and Gough Islands lack a herpetofauna). Species considered for inclusion are those recorded within the above area, and includes marine vagrants and those that have been introduced.

The main recent synoptic literature includes:

Major taxonomic revisions.

Snakes Broadley, 1983a.

Lizards FitzSimons, 1943.

Amphibians Poynton, 1964; Poynton and Broadley, 1985a,b, 1987, 1988.

Chelonians Loveridge, 1941; Loveridge and Williams, 1957; Broadley, 1981a, b; Bour, 1983, 1988.

Updated regional surveys.

Africa Welch, 1982 (with comments by Broadley, 1983b; and Branch, 1983) (squamates).

Botswana Auerbach, 1988.

Namibia Mertens, 1955, 1971.

Namibia Channing and Van Dijk, 1976 (frogs).

South Africa Passmore and Carruthers, 1979 (frogs); Greig and Burdett, 1976 (chelonians).

Orange Free State De Waal, 1978 (squamates), 1980a (chelonians), 1980b (amphibians).

Cape Province Branch, 1981 (lizards).

Kruger National Park Pienaar *et al.*, 1983 (reptiles); Pienaar *et al.*, 1976 (amphibians).

Zimbabwe Broadley and Cock, 1975 (snakes); Lambiris, 1988c (amphibians).

Popular literature.

Amphibians Wager, 1965, 1986.

Reptiles Jacobsen, 1985; Patterson and Bannister, 1987; Branch, 1988b.

Chelonians Boycott and Bourquin, 1988.

Snakes FitzSimons, 1970; Marais, 1985; Patterson and Meakin, 1986.

CLASS: AMPHIBIA

ORDER: ANURA

The higher classification follows that in Frost (1985). More recent classifications by Laurent (1986), Dubois (1986) and Duellman and Treub (1986) show only limited agreement. Duellman and Treub (*op cit.*) consider that the systematics of the Ranidae, Hyperoliidae and Rhacophoridae "is in a state of chaos" (JCP).

Family: Pipidae

Subfamily: Xenopodinae

Xenopus gilli

X. laevis laevis

X. laevis petersii

Poynton and Broadley (1985a), noting the amount of variation in ventral markings of *X. l. petersii*, concluded that *X. l. poweri* could not be maintained as a distinct taxon.

X. muelleri

Family: Heleophryinae

Elevated to family status in Frost (1985).

Heleophryne hewitti

Recently described (Boycott, 1988) from the Eastern Cape.

H. natalensis

H. purcelli purcelli

H. purcelli depressa

H. purcelli orientalis

H. purcelli subsp. nov.

Boycott *in prep.* Kammanassie and Kouga Mts.

H. regis

Elevated to a full species by Boycott (1982).

H. rosei

Family: Bufonidae

Five subfamilies are recognised, but not defined, by Dubois (1986) as well as a number of tribes. They have not met general acceptance and the higher classification is still in a state of confusion (JCP, AL).

Bufo amatolicus

B. angusticeps

B. beiranus

B. dombensis dombensis

B. dombensis damaranus

B. fenoulheti fenoulheti

B. fenoulheti grindleyi

B. hoeschi

B. gariensis gariensis

B. gariensis inyangae

B. gariensis nubicolus

B. garmani

Poynton and Broadley (1988) treat '*B. garmani*' as a complex within which a southern component, *B. poweri*, is partially separable (JCP).

B. gutturalis

B. kavangensis

Poynton and Broadley (1988). N. Botswana, NE Namibia, NW Zimbabwe.

B. lemairii

B. maculatus

Poynton and Broadley (1988) include *pusillus* in the synonymy of *maculatus* pending further biochemical, morphological and geographical data. Lambiris (1988b) is in disagreement and has outlined reasons for preferring the use of *pusillus*.

B. pardalis

Eastern and western Cape populations are separable (JCP). The type locality of *pardalis* is in the Eastern Cape and it is to these populations that the name must apply. *Bufo cruciger* Schmidt is available for Western Cape *pardalis* (*Bufo cruciger* Ocken is on the Official List and unavailable, JCP). The subject is under investigation (AL)

B. rangeri

B. vertebralis

Capensibufo rosei

Previously placed in *Bufo*, but transferred to a new genus by Grandison (1980).

C. tradouwi

Schismaderma carens

Stephopaedes anotis

Possibly congeneric with *Mertensophryne* (DEvD; Dubois, 1986). The tadpoles are similar but the adults show morphological divergence (JCP); the tadpoles of these genera are currently being investigated (AL).

Family: Microhylidae

Subfamily: Brevicepitinae

Breviceps acutirostris

B. adspersus adspersus

May be polytypic (NJ), especially in upland areas (JCP).

B. adspersus pentheri

B. fuscus

B. gibbosus

B. macrops

B. montanus

B. mossambicus

B. namaquensis

B. poweri

Collected at Charre, Mocambique (Poynton and Broadley, 1985).

B. rosei

B. sylvestris sylvestris

Needs revision. *B. sylvestris* illustration in Passmore and Carruthers (1979) is related to *B. adspersus* (NJ).

B. sylvestris taeniatus

B. verrucosus verrucosus

B. verrucosus maculatus

Treated as *B. v. verrucosus* by Passmore and Carruthers (1979), but considered a valid species by Lambiris (1988b), who also feels that the Lesotho *maculatus* listed by Poynton (1964) may represent another undescribed species.

B. verrucosus tympanifer

Probreviceps rhodesianus

Subfamily: Phrynomerinae

Phrynomerus affinis

P. annectens

P. bifasciatus

Family: Ranidae

Subfamily: Phrynobatrachinae

Dubois (1982) petitioned the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature to grant priority to Phrynobatrachinae over Petropedetinae. No opinion has yet been published.

Anhydrophryne ratrayi

Arthroleptella hewitti

A. lightfooti

A. sp. nov.

Bishop, *in prep.*, S. Natal Highlands.

Cacosternum boettgeri

Probably polytypic (JCP).

C. capense

C. namaquense

C. namaquense subsp. nov.

Boycott and De Villiers, *in prep.* Western Cape.

C. nanum nanum

C. nanum parvum

C. poyntoni

Recently described (Lambiris, 1988a) from a single type collected in Pietermaritzburg.

C. striatus

Treated as *C. boettgeri* by Poynton (1964), but provisionally regarded as a valid species by Lambiris (1988b).

Microbatrachella capensis

Natalobatrachus bonebergi

Phrynobatrachus acridoides

P. mababiensis

P. natalensis

P. parvulus

Gen. and sp. nov.

Channing and Boycott (1988); southwestern Cape.

Subfamily: Raninae

Dubois (1986) recognises a number of tribes (eg. Ptychadenini, Pyxicephalini, Ranini, etc) within the Raninae, but these have yet to gain general acceptance.

Hildebrandtia ornata ornata

Hylarana darlingi

Hylarana galamensis

Ptychadena anchietae

P. guibei

P. mascareniensis mascareniensis

P. mossambica

P. oxyrhynchus

P. porosissima

P. poyntoni Guibe may be a valid Natal midlands taxon (JCP).

P. schillukorum

A senior synonym of *P. cotti* (Perret, 1987).

P. subpunctata

P. taenioscelis

P. smithi Guibe may be a valid Natal taxon (JCP).

P. uzungwensis

Pyxicephalus adpersus adpersus

P. adpersus angusticeps

P. adpersus edulis

Massive overlap in range, status uncertain (WRB). Evidence from NE Natal (ecology, maximum size, size at metamorphosis, lesser rugosity, higher pitch of call, etc) indicate that it is a good species (DEvD).

Rana vertebralis

Dubois (1986) recognises a number of subgenera within *Rana* and also recognises *R. umbraculata* Bush, 1952.

Rana angolensis

Occurs in Namibia on north bank of Orange River (HBD).

Rana dracomontana

Described from the Lesotho escarpment (Channing, 1978).

Rana fuscigula

Rana johnstoni inyangae

Strongylopus bonaespei

A replacement name (Dubois, 1981b) for *Rana montana* which was shown by Greig *et al.* (1979) to be distinct from *R. fasciata*. Channing (1979) revived the genus *Strongylopus* for the dwarf, southern African stream frogs, and this has been followed in Frost (1985) and Poynton and Broadley (1985b), although treated only as a subgenus by Dubois (1986).

S. fasciatus fasciatus

S. grayii grayii

Needs clarification of various colour morphs (NJ).

S. grayii rhodesianus

S. hymenopus

S. springbokensis

Recently described from Little Namaqualand (Channing, 1986).

S. wageri

Tomopterna cryptotis

In Namibia *T. marmorata* and *T. krugerensis* may be confused with *T. cryptotis*, unless identification confirmed by call (HBD). *T. cryptotis* is composite, including a diploid and tetraploid species. (Bogert and Tandy, 1976) (DEvD).

Tomopterna delalandii

Tomopterna krugerensis

Tomopterna marmorata

Tomopterna natalensis

Tomopterna tuberculosa

Family: Rhacophoridae

Chiromantis xerampelina

Family: Hyperoliidae

It seems premature to attempt subfamily groupings. If applied, Drewes (1984) provides a strong case for including *Afrixalus* in the Hyperoliinae, in preference to Dubois' (1981a) classification followed by Frost (1985). However, Laurent (1986) has shown that *Afrixalus* is closely-related to *Kassina*, but retains it in the Hyperoliidae. Dubois (1986) recognises it as subfamily within the Arthroleptidae, containing three tribes, but it is not sure in which tribe *Afrixalus* should be placed (JCP).

Afrixalus aureus

This, and the following two species, were described by Pickersgill (1984) from northern Natal and adjacent lowveld regions. Their status, and those of the East African coastal forms is discussed in Lambiris (1988b) and Pickersgill (1988).

A. crotalus

A. delicatus

A. formasinii

A. knysnae

A. spinifrons spinifrons

A. spinifrons subsp. nov.

Pickersgill, *in prep.* Ciskei to Natal.

Hyperolius argus

Status of the species was discussed by Poynton (1985a) and is being investigated (AC).

H. benguellensis

H. horstockii

H. marmoratus marmoratus

H. marmoratus angolensis

H. marmoratus aposematicus

H. marmoratus broadleyi

Poynton (1985c) and Schiötz (1975) have discussed the status of this taxon and *H. m. taeniatus*.

H. marmoratus marginatus

H. marmoratus rhodesianus

H. marmoratus swynnertoni

H. marmoratus taeniatus

H. marmoratus verrucosus

H. mitchelli

H. nasutus

H. parkeri

H. pickersgilli

Recently described from northern Natal (Raw, 1982).

H. poweri

Confused as *H. nasutus* in Natal (AC).

H. pusillus

H. semidiscus

H. tuberilinguis

H. sp. nov.

Channing *in prep.* Caprivi.

Kassina maculata

K. senegalensis

Semnodactylus wealii

Drewes (1984) noted the distinctiveness of *K. wealii* and placed it in a new genus (*Notokassina*). Dubois (1986) treated it as

Kassina (Kassina) wealii, and also noted that *Semnodactylus* Hoffman, 1939 has priority over *Notokassina* Drewes 1984.

Leptopelis bocagii

L. broadleyi

A replacement name (Poynton, 1985b) for *L. argenteus meridionalis* Schiötz 1975.

L. flavomaculatus

L. mossambicus

L. natalensis

L. xenodactylus

Family: Arthroleptidae

Considered by Dubois, (1986) to contain the subfamily Hyperoliinae, but this arrangement has not met with general acceptance.

Subfamily: Arthroleptinae

Arthroleptis stenodactylus

A. troglodytes

A. wahlbergii

A. xenodactyloides

Family: Hemisotidae

Frost and Savage (1987) discuss the correct gender of the family-group name.

Hemisus guineensis broadleyi

H. guineensis microps

H. guttatus

H. marmoratus marmoratus

Incertae sedis

Gen. et sp. nov.

Unusual small frogs from Zululand, that may have microhylid affinities, but that cannot be convincingly assigned to any family known to occur in Africa, are being investigated (AL).

CLASS: REPTILIA

ORDER: CHELONII

Bour and Dubois (1984) have discussed the available ordinal and familial names for chelonians, and consider that Chelonii Brongniart 1800 has priority.

SUBORDER: PLEURODIRA

Family: Pelomedusidae

Subfamily: Pelomedusinae

Pelomedusa subrufa

Bour (1986) suggests that *P. s. nigra* from Natal and the Eastern Cape may be valid.

Pelusios bechuanicus

Bour (1983) treats *P. upembae* as a full species, distinct from *P. bechuanicus*. The genus in southern Africa was revised by Broadley (1981a).

P. castanoides castanoides

Bour (1983) elevated *P. castanoides* to a full species, and described a separate race (*P. c. intergularis*) from the Seychelles.

P. rhodesianus

The presence of this species in South Africa was first reported by Raw (1978b).

P. sinuatus

P. subniger subniger

Trinomials are required following the description of *P. s. parietalis* from the Seychelles (Bour, 1983).

SUBORDER: CRYPTODIRA

Family: Testudinidae

Subfamily: Testudininae

Chersina angulata

Geochelone pardalis

Greig and Burdett (1976) questioned the validity of *G. p. babcocki*; it has not been recognised in most recent publications (eg. Boycott and Bourquin, 1988; Branch, 1988b).

Homopus areolatus

Bour (1988) indicates that *Testudo areolata* is a junior synonym of *T. pusilla* Linnaeus, 1758. Hopefully the latter will be suppressed in favour of the well-known and oft-applied former name.

H. bergeri

Tortoises referable to this species have recently been rediscovered from the vicinity of Aus in southern Namibia. Their status is being investigated (WRB and MG).

H. boulengeri

H. femoralis

H. signatus signatus

H. signatus cafer

The validity of this subspecies (as *H. s. peersi* Hewitt, 1935) was demonstrated by Boycott (1986). *Testudo cafra* Daudin 1801 has priority over *H. s. peersi* (Bour, 1988).

Kinixys belliana belliana

K. belliana spekii

The status of *K. lobatsiana* Power, 1927 is being investigated (RB and SS).

K. natalensis

This species was recently revived by Broadley (1981b). Boycott and Jacobsen (1988) have shown that its range extends well into the Transvaal Lowveld.

Psammobates geometricus

P. oculifer

P. tentorius tentorius

The status of the many subspecies synonymised by Loveridge and Williams (1957) needs re-investigating (WRB and RB).

P. tentorius trimeni

P. tentorius verroxii

Family: Cheloniidae

Caretta caretta

Chelonia mydas

Eretmochelys imbricata

Lepidochelys olivacea

Family: Dermochelyidae

Dermochelys coriacea

Family: Trionychidae

Cycloderma frenatum

There is a verbal report of a soft-shelled terrapin from the Mkuzi area (WDH).

Trionyx triunguis

Family: Emydidae

Trachemys scripta

Introduced by the aquarist trade. Feral specimens have been found in a number of localities (ie. Silverton, Pretoria, and Durban (Newbery, 1984), but there is little indication that they have become established.

ORDER: CROCODYLIA

Family: Crocodylidae

Crocodylus niloticus

Several subspecies have been proposed (Wermuth and Fuchs, 1978) but they have not been generally accepted.

ORDER: SQUAMATA

SUBORDER: LACERTILIA

INFRAORDER: GEKKOTA

Family: Gekkonidae

Subfamily: Gekkoninae

Afroedura africana africana

A. africana namaquensis

A. africana tirasensis

A. amatolica

Treated as *A. nivaria* by Loveridge (1947)

A. havequensis

Recently described from the south-western Cape (Mouton and Mostert, 1985).

A. karroica karroica

A. karroica halli

A. nivaria

A. pondolia pondolia

Status of subspecies, particularly in Transvaal, is unclear. There may be a number of new taxa (NJ).

A. pondolia haackei

Recently described from the south-eastern Transvaal (Onderstall, 1984).

A. pondolia langi

A. pondolia major

Recently described from Swaziland (Onderstall, 1984).

A. pondolia marleyi

A. pondolia multiporis

A. tembulica

Poorly differentiated from *A. amatolica* and *A. nivaria* (WRB).

A. transvaalica transvaalica

A. transvaalica loveridgei

Chondrodactylus angulifer angulifer

Three possible chromosome races occur in Namibia (WRB)

C. angulifer namibensis

Recently described from the Namib Desert (Haacke, 1976b)

Colopus wahlbergii wahlbergii

C. wahlbergii furcifer

Recently described from the SW Kalahari (Haacke, 1976a)

Hemidactylus mabouia mabouia

H. mabouia tasmani

May be a full species (DGB)

H. longicephalus

Occurs south of Kunene River (WDH, unpub. obs.)

H. platycephalus

Validated as a full species by Broadley (1977a)

Homopholis wahlbergii

Homopholis mulleri

Described from the northern Transvaal (Visser, 1987).

Kaokogecko vanzyli

Lygodactylus angolensis

L. bernardi

L. bradfieldi

Doubtfully distinct from *L. capensis* (WDH)

L. capensis capensis

L. chobiensis

L. lawrencei

L. methueni

L. ocellatus

Status in Transvaal under investigation (NJ). Recently collected in western Swaziland (RGB).

L. stevensoni

Narudasia festiva

Pachydactylus austeni

P. bicolor

P. bibronii

Populations intermediate between *P. bibronii* and *P. laevigatus* occur in Central Namibia (HBD) and S. Namibia (MG).

P. capensis capensis

Status of Transvaal races under investigation. New concept planned (NJ).

P. capensis affinis

P. capensis labialis

Considered a full species due to the different structure of the toes (GM).

P. capensis oshaughnessyi

The status of this and the following subspecies is discussed by Broadley (1977b)

P. capensis vansoni

P. caraculicus

P. fasciatus

P. geitje

P. kobosensis

Of doubtful status; probably conspecific with *P. weberi* (GM).

P. kochii

P. laevigatus laevigatus

P. laevigatus fitsimensi

P. maculatus maculatus

P. maculatus oculatus

Treated as a full species by Branch (1988b); sympatric with *P. maculatus* throughout much of eastern Karoo.

P. mariquensis mariquensis

P. mariquensis latirostris

P. mariquensis macrolepis

Of doubtful status (= *P. m. mariquensis*) (GM).

P. monticolus

Of doubtful status; probably conspecific with *P. geitje* (GM).

P. namaquensis

N. Cape and S. Karoo populations differ (WRB).

P. oreophilus oreophilus

P. oreophilus gaisensis

A full species, sympatric with typical *P. oreophilus* around Brandberg (GM).

P. punctatus punctatus

P. punctatus amoenoides

The status of this subspecies is doubtful (GM).

P. punctatus scherzi

P. rugosus rugosus

P. rugosus barnardi

McLachlan (1979) transferred this and the following race (previously treated as subspecies of *P. capensis*) to *P. rugosus*.

P. rugosus formosus

P. scutatus scutatus

P. scutatus robertsi

The status of this subspecies is doubtful (GM).

P. serval serval

P. serval onscapensis

P. serval purcelli

P. serval sansteyni

A full species (GM).

P. tetensis

P. tigrinus

Validated as a full species by Broadley (1977b)

P. tsodiloensis

P. weberi weberi

P. weberi acuminatus

The status of this subspecies is doubtful (GM).

P. weberi werneri

Palmatogecko rangei

Phelsuma ocellata

Russell (1977) transferred the monotypic *Rhoptropella ocellata* to *Phelsuma*, creating an intriguing zoogeographic enigma.

Phyllodactylus lineatus lineatus

P. lineatus essexi

The status of this and the following subspecies is uncertain; both are more strictly rupicolous than the typical race (WRB).

P. lineatus rupicolus

P. microlepidotus

P. peringueyi

Known only from types. Possibly not African.

P. porphyreus

P. sp. nov.

Haacke *in prep.* Swartberg Mt.

Ptenopus carpi

P. garrulus garrulus

P. garrulus maculatus

Revived by Haacke (1975b)

P. kochi

Rhoptropus afer

R. barnardi

R. biporosus

R. boultoni boultoni

R. braconnieri

Status uncertain, and possibly conspecific with *R. afer*. Known only from the types which were described from the vicinity of Lake Ngami, many hundreds of kilometres out of the known range of the genus (WDH, GM).

R. bradfieldi bradfieldi

Status uncertain, genus under revision (WDH).

R. bradfieldi diporus

INFRAORDER: ANGUIMORPHA

Family: Varanidae

Varanus exanthematicus albigularis

V. niloticus niloticus

INFRAORDER: IGUANIA

Family: Chamaeleonidae

Klaver and Böhme (1986) have discussed the phylogeny and classification of chamaeleons and recognized two subfamilies and resurrected a number of genera and subgenera.

Subfamily: Chamaeleoninae

Bradypodion caffrum

The genus was resurrected by Raw (1976) for the dwarf, viviparous chamaeleons of southern Africa, but it is now considered to also include a number of East African species, eg. *B. adolffriderici*, *B. carpenteri*, *B. fischeri*, etc.. (Klaver and Böhme, 1986).

B. damaranum

B. dracomontanum

Described by Raw (1976) from the Natal Drakensberg.

B. gutturale

B. karroicum

Probably only a subspecies of *B. ventrale* (WRB).

B. melanocephalum

B. nemorale

Described by Raw (1978) from the Qudeni and Nkandla Forests of northern Zululand.

B. pumilum

B. setaroi

Described by Raw (1976) from the coastal dune forests of northern Natal.

B. taeniabronchum

B. thamnobates

Described by Raw (1976) from the Natal Midlands.

B. transvaalense

A complex of species and subspecies in Transvaal, including possible triploids, is under investigation (D. Gordon and NJ).

B. ventrale ventrale

B. ventrale occidentale

B. sp. nov.

Branch *in prep.* Swartberg Mt. Other problematic populations in the Cape Fold Mountains are also under investigation (WRB).

Three new species in Natal (LR)

Chamaeleo (Chamaeleo) dilepis dilepis

Transvaal material is flapless and possibly referable to *C. quilensis* ? (NJ).

C. (Chamaeleo) namaquensis

Subfamily: Brookesiinae

Rhampholeon marshalli marshalli

R. marshalli gorongosae

Family: Agamidae

Moody (1980), in an as yet unpublished thesis, has partitioned this large genus.

Agama aculeata aculeata

A very variable complex that was reviewed by McLachlan (1981) and whose findings are followed below. However, short-tailed and long-tailed females are widespread in the Transvaal, and the subject needs further investigation (NJ).

A. aculeata armata

A. aculeata distanti

A. anchietae

A. atra atra

A. atra knobeli

Status uncertain (WDH).

A. etoshae

Described by McLachlan (1981) from Etosha Pan, northern Namibia.

A. hispida hispida

A. h. makarikarica

A. kirkii

A. mossambica

Monotypic; *A. montana* treated as full species (Moody, 1980)

A. planiceps planiceps

Stellio atricollis

Generic allocation follows Moody (1980)

INFRAORDER: SCINCOMORPHA

Family: Lacertidae

Aporosaura anchietae

Heliobolus lugubris

Previously included in *Eremias* (FitzSimons, 1943). The generic assignment of African '*Eremias*' is discussed in Loveridge (1957), Arnold (1980), Branch (1981) and Broadley (1983b).

Holaspis guentheri laevis

H. g. laevis was recognised by Loveridge (1957) but not by Welch (1982)

Ichnotropis capensis

Following the recommendation of Loveridge (1957), Branch and Broadley (1985) made a successful application to the International Commission for Nomenclature (Anon, 1987) for the suppression of *Thermophilus* Fitzinger, 1843 and conservation of *Ichnotropis* Peters, 1854.

I. grandiceps

I. squamulosa

Lacerta australis

Generic status of southern African '*Lacerta*' uncertain (Arnold, 1973).

L. rupicola

Latastia johnstoni

Known only from type of *L. kidwelli* (Eldorado, Zimbabwe, = Eldorado Mine, Chinhoyi). Further southern African specimens have not been found despite searches (DGB).

Meroles ctenodactylus

M. cuneirostris

M. knoxii

M. micropholidotus

M. reticulatus

M. suborbitalis

Possible races under investigation (HBD).

Nucras caesicaudata

Described from SE Zimbabwe, extreme NE Transvaal and adjacent Mocambique (Broadley, 1972)

N. intertexta

N. lalandii

N. taeniolata taeniolata

Broadley (1972) reviewed the *N. tessellata* complex.

N. taeniolata ornata

Contains 2 taxa in the Transvaal and it is necessary to revive *N. t. holubi* (NJ).

N. tessellata tessellata

N. tessellata livida

Pedioplanis breviceps

Previously assigned (eg. FitzSimons, 1943) to *Eremias*. See Broadley (1983b), Branch (1981) and Arnold (1980) for comments on the topic.

P. burchelli

P. laiceps

P. lineocellata lineocellata

P. lineocellata inocellata

Not considered valid; probably only a colour phase in the Klinghardt Mts (GM).

P. lineocellata pulchella

Cannot be distinguished from typical race in OFS (De Waal, 1978).

P. namaquensis

P. undata undata

Form *P. u. inornata* deserves recognition (HBD).

P. undata rubens

Status under investigation (HBD).

P. undata gaerdesi

Status under investigation (HBD).

P. sp. nov.

Berger-Dell'mour and Mayer *in prep.* Central Namib.

Tropidosaura cottrelli

T. essexi

T. gularis

T. montana montana

The status of the following races is under investigation (WRB).

T. montana natalensis

T. montana rangeri

Family: Scincidae

Greer (1970a, b) has discussed the subfamilial classification of African skinks.

Subfamily: Acontiinae

Acontias breviceps

The genus was revised by Broadley and Greer, 1969.

A. gracilicauda gracilicauda

A. gracilicauda namaquensis

A. lineatus lineatus

A. lineatus tristis

A. lineatus grayi

A. lioralis

A. meleagris meleagris

The striped eastern race *lineicauda*, treated as a variety by Broadley and Greer, (1969) may be valid (WRB).

A. meleagris orientalis

Probably a full species restricted to the Algoa Basin (WRB).

A. plumbeus

A. percivali tasmani

A. percivali occidentalis

A. sp. nov.

Bourquin and Lambiris *in prep.* S. Natal.

Acontophiops lineatus

The status of this monotypic genus was discussed by Rieppel (1981, 1982).

Typhlosaurus aurantiacus aurantiacus

T. aurantiacus fitzsimonsi

T. braini

T. caecus

T. cregoi cregoi

T. cregoi bicolor

T. gariensis

T. lineatus lineatus

T. lineatus subtaeniatus

T. lineatus richardsi

Recently described from Venda in the northern Transvaal (Jacobsen, 1987b).

T. lomii

Recently described from the Western Cape coastal region (Haacke, 1986)

T. meyeri

T. vermis

Subfamily: Lygosomatiinae

Cryptoblepharus boutonii

Local populations probably referable to *C. b. africanus* (WDH). Brygoo (1986) has revised the genus in the Malagasy region.

Lygosoma afer

Previously treated as *Riopa*, but transferred to *Lygosoma* by Greer, 1977.

L. sundevallii sundevallii

Mabuya acutilabris

M. binotata

M. boulengeri

M. capensis

M. chimbana

Occurs south of Kunene River (WDH, unpub. obs).

M. hoeschi

M. homalocephala homalocephala

The status of the various subspecies is doubtful and requires investigation (WDH, WRB).

M. homalocephala depressa

M. homalocephala peringueyi

M. homalocephala smithii

M. quinquetaeniata margaritifera

M. lacertiformis

The *M. lacertiformis* complex, including the species *M. chimbana* and *M. variegata*, was revised by Broadley (1975).

M. laevis

Placed in a separate genus *Oelofsea* by Steyn and Mitchell (1965), but this has not been followed by subsequent authors (eg. Mertens, 1971; Greer, 1977; Welch, 1982).

M. maculilabris maculilabris

The *M. maculilabris* complex, including *M. boulengeri* was revised by Broadley (1974).

M. megalura

M. occidentalis

M. spilogaster

Broadley (1969) demonstrated the validity of this species after finding it in sympatry with *M. striata* in the southern Kalahari.

M. striata striata

The *M. striata* complex, including *M. spilogaster* was revised by Broadley (1977c).

M. striata sparsa

M. striata punctatissima

M. striata wahlbergii

M. sulcata sulcata

M. sulcata ansorgii

Status south of Cunene River uncertain (WDH).

M. sulcata nigra

Status doubtful (GM).

M. varia

There may be more than one taxon in the Transvaal; the topic is under investigation (NJ).

M. variegata variegata

The status of Namaqualand specimens is uncertain (WRB and HBD).

M. variegata punctulata

Not well defined in central Namibia (HBD).

Panaspis wahlbergii

Two taxa in the Transvaal are under investigation (NJ).

Subfamily: Scincinae

Melanoseps schebeni

A species of problematic status. It was described by Sternfeld (1910) from Windhoek, but has never been recollected. The types are lost and may have been incorrectly labelled *Melanoseps occidentalis* (Brygoo and Roux-Esteve, 1981).

Proscelotes arnoldi arnoldi

Scelotes anguina

S. arenicola

S. bidigitatus

S. bipes bipes

S. bipes sexlineatus

This race deserves specific recognition (CL).

S. brevipes

S. caffer

S. capensis

S. gronovii

S. guentheri

S. inornatus inornatus

S. inornatus mossambicus

S. kasneri

S. limpopoensis limpopoensis

S. limpopoensis albiventris

Recently described by Jacobsen (1987a) from the northern Transvaal.

S. mira

Sepsina alberti

S. angolensis

Typhlacontias bogerti

Under review (WDH).

T. brevipes

T. gracilis ngamiensis

Status to be reviewed (WDH). Probably a synonym of *T. g. rohanii* (DGB).

T. punctatissimus

Status under review. Occurs south of Kunene River (WDH).

T. sp. nov.

Northwest Namibia, (WDH in prep.).

Family: Cordylidae

Subfamily: Cordylinae

Chamaesaura aenea

C. a. anguina

C. m. macrolepis

Cordylus campbelli

C. cataphractus

C. coeruleopunctatus

C. cordylus cordylus

C. cordylus niger

C. cordylus subsp. nov.

A montane, melanistic form in the mountains of the southwestern Cape (Mouton, 1987 and *in prep.*).

C. giganteus

C. lawrencei

C. macropholis

C. mclachlani

Recently described from the Koue-Bokkeveld (Mouton, 1986)

C. mclachlani subsp. nov.

Mouton and Visser *in prep* W. Cape.

C. minor

Status under investigation; new populations known from Prince Albert (PleM) and Meiringspoort (WRB).

C. namaquensis

C. peersi

C. polyzonus polyzonus

C. polyzonus jordani

This subspecies deserves specific status (WDH).

C. pustulatus

C. rhodesianus

C. tasmani

Predominately arboreal and sympatric with *C. cordylus* in Algoa Basin (WRB).

C. tropidosternum tropidosternum

C. tropidosternum jonesii

C. vittifer vittifer

Two forms may be separable (De Waal, 1978, NJ).

C. vittifer machadoi

Occurs south of Kunene River (WDH *unpub. obs.*).

C. warreni warreni

Taxonomic revision of species in progress, status of some races doubtful (NJ).

C. warreni barbertonensis

C. warreni breyeri

C. warreni depressus

C. warreni laevigatus

Name preoccupied by *C. laevigatus* Cuvier 1829.

C. warreni mossambicus

C. warreni perkoensis

C. warreni regius

C. warreni vandami

Platysaurus capensis

The genus was revised by Broadley (1978)

P. guttatus

Jacobsen and Newbery (1988) have reviewed the taxa in the Transvaal and resurrected *P. orientalis* as a full species with *P. fitsimensi* as a race.

P. imperator

P. intermedius intermedius

P. intermedius natalensis

P. intermedius nigrescens

P. intermedius parvus

P. intermedius rhodesianus

P. intermedius subniger

P. intermedius wilhelmi

P. intermedius subsp. nov. 1

Lebombo Mountains; previously placed under *P. i. wilhelmi* (Jacobsen and Newbery, 1988).

P. intermedius subsp. nov. 2

N. Transvaal (Jacobsen and Newbery, 1988).

P. intermedius subsp. nov. 3

N. Transvaal (Jacobsen and Newbery, 1988).

P. minor

Elevated to full species by Jacobsen and Newbery (1988).

P. ocellatus

P. orientalis orientalis

P. orientalis fitsimensi

P. pungweensis pungweensis

P. pungweensis blakei

P. relictus

P. torquatus

Pseudocordylus capensis capensis

As Loveridge (1944) noted, when transferring this species from *Cordylus* to *Pseudocordylus*, that the status of these genera and their diagnosis needs further investigation (WRB).

P. capensis robertsi

The status of this race and a new population in the Kammanassie Mountains is under investigation (WRB).

P. langi

P. melanotus melanotus

Transvaal populations are under investigation (NJ).

P. melanotus subviridis

P. melanotus transvaalensis

De Waal (1978) suggested this race was synonymous with *P. m. melanotus*, but studies indicate it is a valid taxon (NJ).

P. microlepidotus microlepidotus

Status of Cape taxa under investigation (WRB).

P. microlepidotus fasciatus

P. microlepidotus namaquensis

= *P. m. fasciatus* (GM); a valid taxon (WRB).

P. microlepidotus subsp. nov.

Branch *in prep.* Transkei.

P. spinosus

Subfamily: Gerrhosaurinae

Angolosaurus skoogi

Cordylosaurus subtessellatus

Gerrhosaurus flavigularis flavigularis

Unusual blue-throated form in Transvaal (NJ).

G. major major

The species has been reviewed by Broadley (1987), who recognises only one other race (*G. m. bottegoi* from northern Somalia to Ghana).

G. multilineatus auritus

Status uncertain (WDH).

G. nigrolineatus

G. typicus

G. validus validus

G. validus maltzahni

Tetradactylus africanus africanus

T. africanus fitzsimonsi

T. breyeri

T. eastwoodae

Not rediscovered since its initial description and now possibly extinct (Jacobsen, 1988).

T. seps seps

T. seps laevicauda

Recent collections indicate that this race is poorly defined (WRB)

T. tetradactylus tetradactylus

T. tetradactylus bilineatus

SUBORDER: AMPHISBAENIA

Family: Amphisbaenidae

Chirindia langi langi

The southern species in the genus were revised by Broadley and Gans (1978a)

C. langi occidentalis

Recently described from the northern Transvaal (Jacobsen, 1986b)

C. swynnertoni

Dalophia longicauda

The genus was revised by Broadley *et al.* (1975)

D. pistillum

Monopeltis anchietae

The genus was revised by Broadley *et al.* (1975)

M. capensis capensis

M. capensis rhodesiana

Chromosome morphology indicates that this race may be a full species (WRB).

M. leonhardi

M. sphenorhynchus sphenorhynchus

M. sphenorhynchus mauricei

M. zambezensis

Zygaspis quadrifrons

Z. niger

Described from Zambia and Angola (Broadley and Gans, 1969) and now known to extend into the Caprivi Strip.

Z. violacea

The species was revised by Broadley and Gans (1978b)

SUBORDER: SERPENTES

INFRAORDER: SCOLECOPHIDIA

Family: Typhlopidae

Subfamily: Typhlopinae

Ramphotyphlops braminus

Introduced into the Cape at least as early as 1838 (McLachlan, 1978) and now also known from Durban (Alexander, 1987).

Typhlops bibronii

T. boylei

T. fornasinii

T. lalandei

Roux-Esteve's (1974) use of *Rhinotyphlops* for African typhlopids with an angular keratinized horizontal cutting edge to the snout and an enlarged ventrally broadened rostral, was questioned by both Hahn (1977) and Broadley (1983a).

T. obtusus

T. schinzi

T. schlegelii schlegelii

T. schlegelii mucruso

T. schlegelii petersii

Family: Leptotyphlopidae

The genus in south-eastern Africa was revised by Broadley and Watson (1976).

Leptotyphlops conjunctus conjunctus

L. conjunctus incognitus

L. distanti

L. gracilior

L. labialis

L. longicaudus

L. nigricans nigricans

L. occidentalis

L. scutifrons scutifrons

L. telloi

L. sp. ?

A minute specimen from forest habitat in northern Natal was noted by Broadley and Watson (1976) as possibly representing an undescribed taxon.

INFRAORDER: HENOPHIDIA

Family: Boidae

Subfamily: Pythoninae

Python anchietae

P. sebae natalensis

Broadley (1984) revived this southern race. *P. saxuloides* (Miller and Smith, 1979) is probably a junior synonym.

INFRAORDER: CAENOPHIDIA

Family: Colubridae

There still remains conflict over the generic groupings of African colubrids (see Smith, *et al.*, 1977; McDowell, 1987; Cadle, 1988, etc.). The arrangement below follows that of Dowling (in Dowling and Duellman, 1978; and Dowling, 1986) with certain modifications, most notably the downgrading of proposed ranks to maintain a more comprehensive concept of the Colubridae (WRB).

Subfamily: Atractaspidinae

Treated as full family by McDowell (1987).

Amblyodipsas concolor

A. microphthalmalma microphthalmalma

A. microphthalmalma nigra

Recently described from the northern Transvaal (Jacobsen, 1986a).

A. polylepsis polylepsis

A. ventrimaculata

Aparallactus capensis

Genus placed in Boaedontinae by McDowell (1987).

A. guentheri

A. lunulatus lunulatus

A. nigriceps

Atractaspis bibronii

A. congica orientalis

A. duerdeni

Berger-Dell'mour and Griffin first noted unusual burrowing asps from the eastern water carrier in Namibia, that are referable to this species (Broadley, *in prep.*)

A. duerdeni nov. subsp.

Berger Dell'mour and Griffin, *in prep.*, north-eastern Namibia.

Chilorhinophis gerardi gerardi

Homoroselaps dorsalis

H. lacteus

Since McDowell's (1968) suggestion that these snakes were referable not to the Elapidae but to the Aparallactinae (now the Atractaspidinae), the subject remains controversial (eg., Kochva and Wollberg, 1970; Savitsky, 1979; McCartney, 1985; Underwood *pers. comm.*, 1987).

Macrelaps microlepidotus

Xenocalamus bicolor bicolor

X. bicolor australis

X. bicolor lineatus

X. mechowii inornatus

X. sabiensis

X. transvaalensis

Subfamily: Boaedontinae

Tribe: Boaedontini

Lamprophis aurora

L. guttatus

L. fiskii

L. fuliginosus

L. fuscus

L. inornatus

L. swazicus

Described from Swaziland (Schaefer, 1970), the generic status of this species remains uncertain and is under investigation (WRB).

Lycodonormorphus laevisissimus laevisissimus

L. laevisissimus fitsimensis

L. laevisissimus natalensis

The status of this race seems doubtful (WRB).

L. leleupi mlanjensis

L. rufulus

L. whytii obscuriventris

Tribe: Lycophidini

Cryptolycus nanus

Lycophidion capense capense

L. capense multimaculatum

L. capense vermiculatum

L. hellmichi

L. semiannule

L. variegatum

Mehelya capensis capensis

M. nyassae

M. vernayi

Tribe: Pseudaspini

Duberria lutrix lutrix

D. lutrix rhodesiana

D. variegata

Pseudaspis cana

Subfamily: Colubrinae

Tribe: Boigini

Crotaphopeltis barotseensis

C. hotamboeia

Dipsadoboa aulica aulica

Telescopus beetzii

Genus under revision in Namibia (WDH).

T. semiannulatus semiannulatus

T. semiannulatus polystictus

Dispholidus typus typus

Thelotornis capensis capensis

T. capensis mossambicanus

T. capensis oatesii

Tribe: Colubrini

Meizodon semiornatus semiornatus

Trinomials are necessary following Schatti's (1985) treatment of *M. tchadensis* (Chabanaud, 1917) as a race of this species.

Tribe: Dasypeltini

Dasypeltis inornata

D. medici medici

D. scabra

Tribe: Philothamnini

Philothamnus angolensis

Hughes (1985) has separated this species from *P. irregularis* which is now restricted to West Africa.

P. hoplogaster

P. natalensis natalensis

Hughes (1985) discussed the apparent wide overlap in the distribution of these races, and Alexander (1987) noted no evidence of intergradation around Durban, and documented consistent differences in colouration and feeding habits between the races.

P. natalensis occidentalis

Branch and Hanekom (1987) noted difficulty in differentiating this race from *P. hoplogaster* in the Tsitsikama region.

P. ornatus

P. semivariatus semivariatus

Subfamily: Natricinae

Tribe: Hydraethiopsini

Limnophis bicolor bangweolicus

Natriciteres olivacea

N. variegata sylvatica

Subfamily: Psammophiinae

Dipsina multimaculata

Formerly placed in *Rhamphiophis*, Broadley (1983a) placed this species in this monotypic genus.

Dromophis lineatus

Following the recommendation of Loveridge (1957), Broadley (1983c) made a successful application to the International Commission for Nomenclature for the suppression of *Philodendros* Fitzinger, 1843 and conservation of *Dromophis* Peters, 1869.

Hemirhagerhis nototaenia nototaenia

H. nototaenia viperinus

Psammophis angolensis

P. crucifer

P. jallae

P. leightoni leightoni

P. leightoni namibensis

Possible intergrade specimens from Elands Bay are currently under investigation; Hoffmann *in prep.* (EB).

P. leightoni trinasalis

P. notostictus

P. phillipsii

P. sibilans brevirostris

P. sibilans leopardinus

P. subtaeniatus subtaeniatus

P. subtaeniatus orientalis

P. trigrammus

Psammophylax rhombeatus rhombeatus

P. tritaeniatus

P. variabilis variabilis

Rhamphiophis oxyrhynchus rostratus

Subfamily: 'incertae sedis'

Controversy surrounds the taxonomic affinities of the following genera.

Amplorhinus multimaculatus

Pythonodipsas carinata

Placed in the tribe Geodipsadini by Dowling (1986), but recent studies by Marx *et al.* (1982) and Schatti and McCarthy (1987) have failed to shed further light on the taxonomic affinities of this peculiar monotypic genus.

Prosymna ambigua stuhlmannii

The genus was revised by Broadley (1980).

P. angolensis

P. bivittata

P. frontalis

P. janii

P. sundevallii sundevallii

P. sundevallii lineata

P. visseri

Recently recorded from northern Namibia (McLachlan, 1987)

Family: Elapidae

Subfamily: Elapinae

Tribe: Najini

Aspidelaps lubricus lubricus

A. lubricus cowlesi

A. lubricus infuscatus

A. scutatus scutatus

A. scutatus fulafula

A. scutatus intermedius

Elapsoidea guentheri

E. semiannulata semiannulata

E. semiannulata boulengeri

E. sundevallii sundevallii

Peters' 1880 amendment *sundevallii* seems to have become well established in the literature. However, Smith's original spelling, *sundewallii* is manifestly intentional, the name appearing in this form in the caption of Plate 66, in the heading to the text of the plate, in the running heading of the following page, and in the footnote where "Professor Sunderwall of Stockholm" is acknowledged. It is clear that *sundewallii* is the correct original spelling (*Int. Code Zool. Nomencl.*, Art. 32(b)); that there is no evidence of incorrect original spelling in terms of the Art. 32(c); and that *sundevallii*, although universally accepted, is in fact an unjustified emendation (Art. 33(b)) (AL).

E. sundevallii decosteri

E. sundevallii fitzsimonsi

E. sundevallii longicauda

E. sundevallii media

Hemachatus haemachaus

Naja haje annulifera
N. haje anchietae
N. melanoleuca
N. mossambica
N. nigricollis nigricollis
N. nigricollis nigricincta
N. nigricollis woodi
N. nivea

Tribe: Dendroaspidini
Dendroaspis angusticeps
D. polylepis

Subfamily: Hydrophiinae
Tribe: Hydrophiini
Pelamis platurus

Pelamis would appear to be feminine and thus require the specific epithet *platura* (DF).

Family: Viperidae
Subfamily: Causinae
Causus defilippii
C. rhombeatus

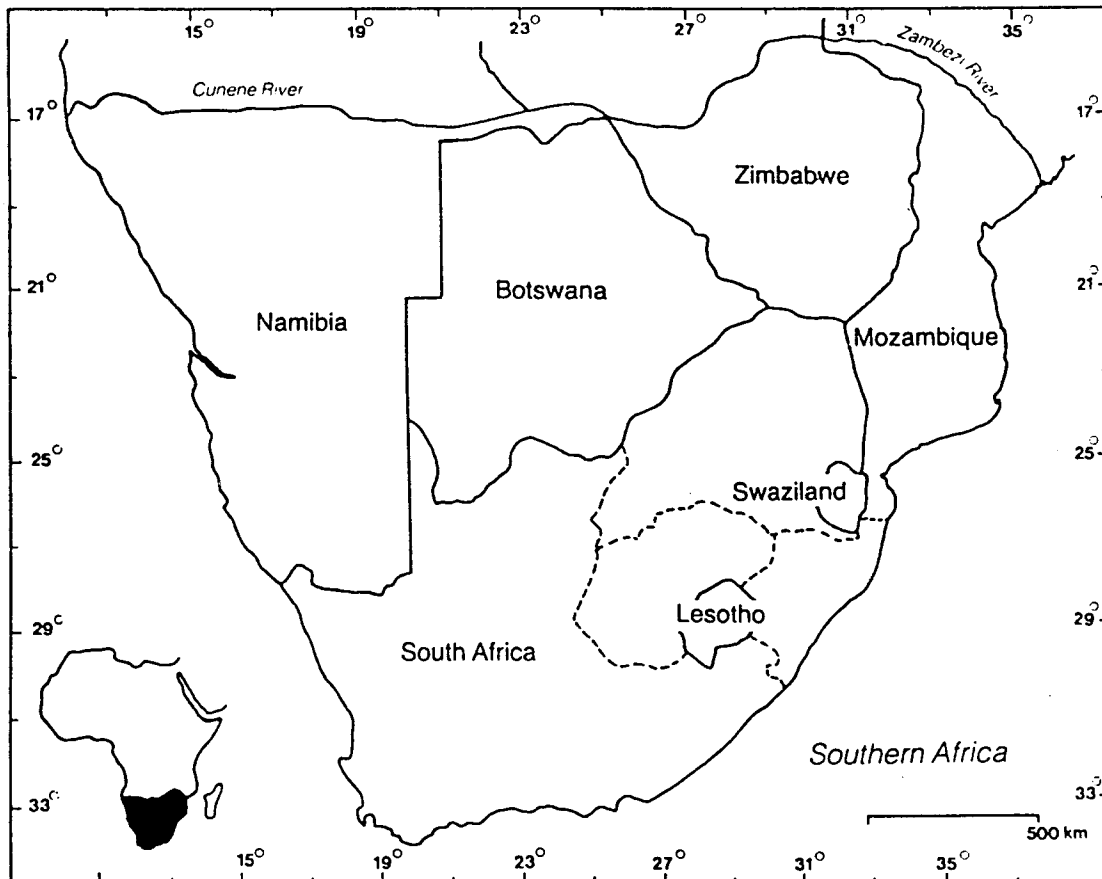
Subfamily: Viperinae
Atheris superciliaris

Bitis arietans arietans
B. atropos
B. caudalis
B. cornuta

The status of the southern and eastern Cape 'hornless' adders (*atropoides* and *albanica*) is under investigation (WRB).

B. inornata
 Treated as a full species (Branch, 1988a,c).
B. gabonica gabonica
B. peringueyi
B. schneideri
B. xeropaga

Described from the lower Orange River valley (Haacke, 1975).



Map 1. The Southern African Region.

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