

A provisional check list of the reptiles and amphibians of Golden Gate Highlands National Park

M. F. BATES

Bates, M. F. 1991. A provisional check list of the reptiles and amphibians of Golden Gate Highlands National Park. *Koedoe* 34(2): 153-155. Pretoria. ISSN 0075-6458.

A provisional check list of 26 reptile and amphibian species (8 frog, 8 lizard and 10 snake species) occurring in Golden Gate Highlands National Park is presented. The list does not reflect the results of an intensive survey, but is a record of specimens collected in the park and preserved at the National Museum, Bloemfontein.

M F Bates, Department of Herpetology, National Museum, P O Box 266, Bloemfontein, 9300 Republic of South Africa.

Introduction

The herpetofauna of many national parks and nature reserves in South Africa has been documented, including that of the Kruger National Park (Pienaar, Passmore & Carruthers 1976; Pienaar, Haacke & Jacobsen 1983), Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (FitzSimons & Brain 1958), Addo Elephant National Park (Branch & Braack 1987), Tsitsikamma Coastal and Forest National Parks (Branch & Hanekom 1987), Karoo National Park (Branch & Braack 1989), West Coast National Park (Tomsett *in prep*), Transvaal provincial nature reserves (Jacobsen, Newbury & Petersen 1986) and several Natal Parks Board reserves (see Bourquin 1989).

De Waal (1978, 1980a, 1980b) conducted an intensive survey of the herpetofauna of the Orange Free State, but did not include any part of the present Golden Gate Highlands National Park (GGHNP) in his study area. The purpose of this check list is to document reptiles and amphibians collected at GGHNP and housed at the National Museum, Bloemfontein. Most specimens were collected by J.J. Marais. De Waal's (1978, 1980a, 1980b) distribution maps should be consulted for species recorded near the park. The species listed do not represent the result

of a survey, the latter of which is bound to disclose many more species in the park.

Some of the records listed have been published as new geographical distribution records (Bates 1988).

Check list of the herpetofauna of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park

Scientific and common names are given, together with the National Museum, Bloemfontein museum catalogue numbers (NMR; R=reptile, A=amphibian). Where an exact collection locality within the park is known, this is given together with the NMB number.

Class Amphibia
Order Anura
Suborder Ophisthocoela
Family Pipidae
Subfamily Xenopodinae

1. *Xenopus laevis laevis* (Daudin, 1802)
Common platanna (clawed toad) (NMB A2658, 2681)

Suborder Procoela
Family Bufonidae

2. *Bufo rangeri* (Hewitt, 1935) Raucous toad (NMB A2654, 2656, 2660, 2665, 2680)

Family Scincidae
Subfamily Lygosominae

3. *Bufo gariiepensis gariiepensis* Smith, 1848
Karoo toad (NMB A2659)

13. *Mabuya striata punctatissima* (Peters, 1849) Striped skink (NMB R5464-69)

4. *Schismaderma carens* (Smith, 1848) Red toad (NMB A2655, Lugwijini; 2682)

14. *Mabuya varia* (Peters, 1867) Variable skink (NMB R5470)

Suborder Displasiocoela
Family Ranidae
Subfamily Raninae

Family Cordylidae
Subfamily Cordylinae

5. *Strongylopus grayii grayii* (A Smith, 1849)
Clicking stream frog (NMB A2653, Brandwag Restcamp; 2657)

15. *Pseudocordylus melanotus subviridis* (A Smith, 1838) Drakensberg crag lizard (NMB R5459-63; also one specimen in the Transvaal Museum collection)

6. *Strongylopus fasciata fasciata* (A Smith, 1849) Striped stream frog (NMB A2673)

16. *Chamaesaura aenea* (Wiegmann, 1843) Transvaal grass lizard (NMB R5490, 6264)

7. *Rana angolensis* Bocage, 1866 Common river frog (NMB A4712-13, Diepkloof (1720) - 28°28'S, 28°39'E)

FitzSimons (1943) recorded the species from Lindley, but as the specimen (Albany Museum) appeared to be lost and no specimens were collected during his survey, De Waal (1978) regarded it as a "doubtful record". However, a specimen (NMB R5490) was collected at GGHNP by J J Marais in 1986 (see Bates 1988) and another (NMB R6264) from the park was donated to the National Museum by G Groenewald in 1990.

8. *Rana fuscigula* (Duméril & Bibron, 1841) Cape river frog (NMB A2661-64, 2666-72, 2674-79)

Class Reptilia
Order Squamata
Suborder Sauria
Family Gekkonidae

Suborder Serpentes
Family Typhlopidae

9. *Afroedura nivaria* (Boulenger, 1894) Mountain flat gecko (NMB R5863; 6262-63, Diepkloof (1720) - 28°28'S, 28°39'E)

17. *Typhlops bibronii* (A Smith, 1846) Bibron's blind snake (NMB R5533, 5634)

Family Lacertidae

Family Leptotyphlopidae

10. *Pedioplanis burchelli* (Duméril & Bibron, 1839) Burchell's sand lizard (NMB R5473-78, 5497-98)

18. *Leptotyphlops scutifrons scutifrons* (Peters, 1854) Peters' thread snake (NMB R5635-36, 5680)

11. *Nucras lalandii* (Milne-Edwards, 1829) Delalande's sandveld lizard (NMB R5471-72)

Family Colubridae
Subfamily Lycodontinae

Family Agamidae

19. *Lycodonomorphus rufulus* (Lichtenstein, 1823) Common brown water snake (NMB R5494, 6266)

12. *Agama atra atra* (Daudin, 1802) Common rock agama (NMB R5479-89, 5495-96)

20. *Lamprophis inornatus* (Duméril & Bibron, 1854) Olive house snake (NMB R6265)

This is the second round of the species in the Orange Free State. De Waal (1978) records only one specimen, collected at Harrismith and housed in the South African Museum (SAM 18029).

21. *Duberria lutrix lutrix* (Linnaeus, 1758) Common slug eater (NMB R6254)

This is the most easterly record of the species in the Orange Free State (see De Waal 1978).

22. *Pseudaspis cana* (Linnaeus, 1754) Mole snake (NMB R6258)

23. *Psammophylax r. rhombeatus* (Linnaeus, 1754) Spotted skaapsteker (NMB R5499)

Subfamily Colubrinae

24. *Philothamnus natalensis occidentalis* (Broadley, 1966) Western Natal green snake (NMB R6253)

This is the third and most westerly record of the species in the Orange Free State (Bates *in prep*).

25. *Dasypeltis scabra* (Linnaeus, 1758) Common egg eater (NMB R5491-92, 6256)

Family Viperidae Subfamily Viperinae

26. *Bitis atropos* (Linnaeus, 1754) Berg adder (NMB R5493, 6265)

Other records

Other species observed in the park, but which are not represented by museum specimens, are *Bradypodion* sp, *Hemachatus haemachatus* and *Cordylus giganteus* (G Groenewald, *pers comm*). A natural population of *C giganteus* has been discovered in

grassland at GGHNP, and an intensive programme of *C giganteus* relocation into the park is underway (G. Groenewald, *pers comm*).

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