

TWO NEW LIZARDS FOR THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

S. C. J. JOUBERT

Division of Nature Conservation

Private Bag X404

Skukuza

1350

During 1976 two lizards belonging to the families Amphisbaenidae and Gekkonidae were recorded for the first time within the Kruger National Park, Republic of South Africa.

Zoogeographically the most important addition was that of the Kalahari worm-lizard *Monopeltis leonhardi* Werner – fam. Amphisbaenidae. Several specimens were collected at Pafuri in the extreme north-eastern reaches of the Park where it occurs sympatrically with two other amphisbaenids i.e. *M. s. sphenorhynchus* and *Chirindia langi* (Pienaar 1966). The major distribution area of *M. leonhardi* is confined to the semi-arid Kalahari and the areas adjoining it (Fitzsimons 1943). The collection of *M. leonhardi* in the Park represents yet another link between the fauna and flora of the western and eastern zoogeographical zones. Evidence of reptilian links between these two zones also include *Psammophis leightoni* and *P. angolensis*, in addition to other floristic and faunal evidence (cf. Pienaar 1970; Joubert and English 1973).

The other lizard collected was the Transvaal thick-tailed gecko *Afroedura transvaalica transvaalica* Hewitt – fam. Gekkonidae. A single specimen was collected from a crevice in a large boulder along the Mutali River, near its confluence with the Levubu River in the north-eastern extreme of the Park. In South Africa this gecko is restricted in its range of distribution to the northern Transvaal and was first collected along the N'jelele River in the Soutpansberg District (Fitzsimons 1943).

REFERENCES

- FITZSIMONS, V. F. 1943. *The Lizards of South Africa*. Transvaal Mus. Mem. 1.
- JOUBERT, S. C. J. and M. ENGLISH. 1973. A new bird for the Kruger National Park. *Koedoe* 16:199–200.
- PIENAAR, U DE V. 1966. *The reptiles of the Kruger National Park*. *Koedoe Monogr.* 1.
- PIENAAR, U DE V. 1970. A note on the occurrence of the bat-eared fox *Otocyon megalotis megalotis* (Desmarest) in the Kruger National Park. *Koedoe* 13:23–27.