

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

African Herp News publishes brief notes of new geographical distributions (preferably at least 100 km from the nearest published record) of amphibians and reptiles on the African continent and adjacent regions, including the Arabian peninsula, Madagascar, and other islands in the Indian Ocean.

A standard format is to be used, as follows: **SCIENTIFIC NAME**; **Common name** (for sources, see Life History Notes); **Locality** (country, province or state, quarter-degree unit, location, and latitude and longitude if available; elevation above sea level; use metric units); **Date** (day, month, year); **Collector(s)**; **Place of deposition and museum accession number** (required); **Comments** (including data on size, colour and taxonomic characters, e.g. scalation, webbing, especially for taxonomically problematic taxa; and nearest published locality record(s) in km; references to be quoted in the text). Submitted by: **NAME**, Address (in parentheses).

Records submitted should be based on specimens deposited in a recognised collection. New South African province names must be used.

Notes submitted in an incorrect format or style will be returned to the authors.

**CHELONIA
TESTUDINIDAE**

***HOMOPUS BOULENGERI* Duerden, 1906. Karroo Padloper**

South Africa, Free State Province; No. 14 Bauman Street, Frankfort, Frankfort district (2728BC; 27°16'S, 28°30'E; 1520 m a.s.l.); 25 November 1998; J.C.P. van Wyk; National Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa; NMB R8043.

Female collected on a pavement at 10h30. Carapace length 91.1 mm, plastron length 75.8 mm, maximum shell height 45.7 mm, mass 140. Five claws on each front foot; 11 marginals on either side. unusual in that the outer margin of the third costal is shorter than the outer margin of the fourth (also of the first and second) costal, on both sides.

Almost undoubtedly an escaped pet as the species was not recorded from the Free State during De Waal's (1980, *Navors. nas. Mus., Bloemfontein* 4(3): 85-91) survey, and the nearest known natural population is over 500 km to the south-west in the Britstown area, Northern Cape Province (Boycott & Bourquin, 1988, *The South African Tortoise Book*, Southern Book Publishers, Johannesburg). Additional presumed tortoise translocations in the Free State were reported by Bates (1996, *Navors. nas. Mus. Bloemfontein*

12(1): 1-47); *Psammobates tentorius tentorius* (Rayton, near Bloemfontein, 1988); *P. t. verroixii* (Heuwelsig suburb, Bloemfontein, 1994); *P. t. trimeni* (Sasolburg, 1995).

Submitted by

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**SAURIA
SCINCIDAE**

***ACONTIAS GRACILICAUDA GRACILICAUDA* ESSEX 1925: Thin-tailed Legless Skink**

One male (snout-vent length: 219.5 mm; tail length: 19.4 mm; Field Number 286) and one female (snout-vent length: 193.2 mm; tail length: 41.4 mm; Field Number 287), both collected on 17 October 1998 on the Farm Elandsnek (2728CD; 27°37'S; 28°37'E), Reitz district, Free State Province; about 100m apart, under rocks on the side of a grass covered hill. This is the most easterly locality for the species in the Free State. Collectors: S.R. Daniels, M.G.J. Hendricks, N.J.L. Heideman and B.A. Wilson.

The nearest locality plotted by Broadley & Greer (1969, *Arnoldia [Rhodesia]*, 4[26]: 1-29) is in locus 2728CA.

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***SCELOTES ULUGURUENSIS* BARBOUR & LOVERIDGE, 1928. Uluguru Fossorial Skink.**

Tanzania, Tanga Region, Muheza District, East Usambara Mts., Amani (0538BA); 18 February 1999; Frontier-Tanzania (a collaboration between the University of Dar Es-Salaam and the Society for Environmental Exploration in the UH); Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe NMZB 16128. Taken in a pitfall trap set in leaf litter in the forest floor.

This specimen agrees well with the original description (Barbour & Loveridge, 1928, *Mem. Comp. Zool. Harv.*, 50: 167, pl. iv, fig. 6), except that there are only four toes on the hind limbs, apparently as a congenital aberration, the site of the fifth toe being covered by regular scalation.

This species has only previously been recorded from the Uluguru