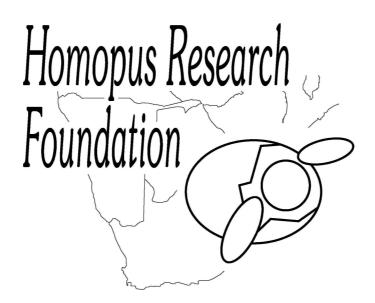
# Homopus Research Foundation



# Annual Report 2005

Victor Loehr January 2006

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2005

Due to time restrictions, this 2005 annual report is considerably less comprehensive than previous reports. I have chosen to list important issues, but to treat each issue only briefly. Furthermore, this report does not contain the usual husbandry information appendices. Refer to previous reports (website, http://www.homopus.org) for this type of information. Husbandry information may be reincorporated in the next years' reports.

The *Homopus* studbooks have grown prosperously in the past years, requiring rigorous changes in the way to interpret and report annual studbook data. Rather than interpreting annual results based on the previous years, it will be necessary to set long-term aims for each studbook, and to report against those. Working out this new way of reporting is scheduled for the end of 2006, or the beginning of 2007. This will probably affect the set-up of the 2006 annual report.

The following achievements are worth listing for 2005:

- Good progress made in the finalisation of the field research project on *H. signatus signatus*. See chapter "New publications".
- Initiation of field research on *H. boulengeri*. Field site and research permits arranged.
- At one of the studbook locations for *H. s. signatus*, an overlooked egg hatched naturally in an indoor enclosure. This rarely occurs in tortoises, and is indicative for the high standard of *Homopus* keeping in the studbook.
- Arrangements made for filming oviposition in captive *H. s. signatus* (BBC documentary, David Attenborough).
- Various reprint requests were received, among others:
  - Polytechnic of Namibia
  - o Universiti Sains Malaysia
  - o C. & O. Vogt Institute of Brain Research, Germany
  - o Tetra Holdco GMBH & Co.Kg Germany
  - o University of Stellenbosch
  - o Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation, South Africa
  - o Central Queensland University, Australia
  - o Several private individuals
- Photographic material provided:
  - o BBC Wildlife Magazine, U.K.
  - o National Association for Humane & Environmental Education, U.S.A.
  - o Akvarium-terarium (Czech journal)
- Questions on *Homopus* or tortoise research methodology answered:
  - o University of Education in Karlsruhe, Germany
  - o University of Cape Town, South Africa
  - o Several South African inhabitants
- Assisted in legal issues (illegal and confiscated tortoises)
- The website was updated with information and photographs on *H. boulengeri* and *H. femoralis*.

# **2. STUDBOOK SUMMARIES**

Homopus areolatus

Live specimens on 1 January 2005: 31 (excluding 2 specimens lost to follow-up) Number of locations on 1 January 2005: 6 (5 countries, 1 zoo; excluding 1 location lost to follow-up) New registrations: 5 Births: 5 Deaths: 3 Live specimens on 31 December 2005: 29 (excluding 6 specimens lost to follow-up)

Number of locations on 31 December 2005: 8 (4 countries, 1 zoo; excluding 1 location lost to follow-up) Interpretation of changes:

Three of the four captive-bred tortoises from Namibia (location A46) died within one year after importing (all at location WUPPERTAL). The fourth tortoise is doing well (location A03). Post-mortem examinations of the three dead tortoises did not yield a primary cause of death. The studbook has a history of problems associated with importing *H. areolatus* from southern Africa. In most cases, tortoises died from unknown causes. The 2005 results emphasise that specimens bred in captivity in Europe should be favoured, with hardly any mortality occurring within this group. In 2005, one new breeder was recorded.

Location A43 in the U.S.A. no longer responded to questions from the studbook coordinator, despite repeated attempts to keep in touch, and unfortunately the specimens at this location had to be removed from the studbook (lost to follow-up). The South African and U.S.A. authorities have been provided with details regarding the two locations responsible for the tortoises (A12 and A43, respectively owner and keeper).

#### Homopus femoralis

No changes occurred in 2005 (3 male specimens at 2 locations in 1 country). Three female *H. femoralis* will be collected and imported from South Africa in March 2006 (all required permits available).

Homopus signatus signatus Live specimens on 1 January 2005: 52 Number of locations on 1 January 2005: 17 (6 countries, 2 zoos) New registrations: 6 Births: 6 Deaths: 0 Live specimens on 31 December 2005: 45 (excluding 13 specimens lost to follow-up) Number of locations on 31 December 2005: 18 (5 countries, 2 zoos; excluding 1 location lost to followup) Interpretation of changes:

Year 2005 was successful for the studbook *H. s. signatus*, with no deaths and two new breeders of the species. Unfortunately, location A43 in the U.S.A. no longer responded to questions from the studbook coordinator, despite repeated attempts to keep in touch, and unfortunately the specimens at this location had to be removed from the studbook (lost to follow-up). The South African and U.S.A. authorities have been provided with details regarding the two locations responsible for the tortoises (A12 and A43, respectively owner and keeper).

### **3.** ACTUAL STUDBOOK OVERVIEWS

*Homopus areolatus*: Total studbook population. MULTX are groups of unregistered specimens at locations outside of the studbook. UNKX are specimens at locations outside of the studbook. Itf means that a specimen is lost to follow-up.

=======	=====		==========	=======	============	=======================================	=======================================	=======
Stud #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Date	Local ID	Event
=======	=====		========	======				
1	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT HRF A03	~ Jul 1997 21 Nov 1997 14 Dec 1997 9 Nov 1998	I НZ0525	Transfer Transfer Transfer Death
2	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT HRF A03	~ Jul 1997 21 Nov 1997 14 Dec 1997 13 Aug 1999		Transfer Transfer Transfer Death
3	?	????	MULT1	MULT2	KRAAIFONT HRF	???? 21 Nov 1997 29 Oct 1999		Hatch Transfer Death

4	F	????	MULT1	MULT2	HRF	21	???? Nov 1997 Oct 2004		Hatch Transfer Loan to
5	М	????	MULT1	MULT2	KRAAIFONT HRF A10	21			Hatch Transfer Loan to
б	М	????	MULT1	MULT2	KRAAIFONT HRF A03	21	???? Nov 1997 Apr 2001		Hatch Transfer Loan to
7	М	????	WILD	WILD	ROTTERDAM A03		???? ???? Jul 1998		Transfer Loan to Death
8	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A12	~16			Transfer Transfer Death
9	F	?????	WILD	WILD	A13 A12		???? Sep 1999 Apr 2000		Transfer Transfer Death
10	М	????	WILD	WILD	A13 A12 A43				Transfer Transfer tf Loan to
11	F	?????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A12 A43	~16	Sep 1999	A5	Transfer Transfer tf Loan to
12	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A12 A43	~16	Sep 1999		Transfer Transfer tf Loan to
13	М	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A12	~16	???? Sep 1999 Feb 2000		Transfer Transfer Death
14	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A12 A43	16	Sep 1999		Transfer Transfer tf Loan to
15	F	????	WILD	WILD	A13 A12	~16 15	???? Sep 1999 Feb 2000	A4	Transfer Transfer Death
16	М	????	WILD	WILD	A16	30	Aug 1994		Transfer
17	F	????	WILD	WILD	A16	30	Aug 1994		Transfer
18	М	23 May 2000	16	17	A16		Mar 2003 Oct 2005		Death Hatch
19	?	5 Feb 2000	MULT3	11	A12		Feb 2000 Feb 2000		Hatch Death
20	?	16 Mar 2000	MULT3	11	A12		Mar 2000 Mar 2000		Hatch Death
21	?	16 Mar 2000	MULT3	11	A12		Mar 2000 Mar 2000		Hatch Death
22	М	????	WILD	WILD	A20 A21 A37	17 15	???? Oct 2000 Sep 2002	1	Transfer Transfer Transfer
23	F	????	WILD	WILD	A20 A21 A37	17 15	???? Oct 2000 Sep 2002	2	Transfer Transfer Transfer

24	F	~ 1993	UNK1	UNK2	A20 A21 A37	17	Oct .	2000	3	Hatch Transfer Transfer
25	F	15 Sep 2001	5	4	HRF A10 A16 A45	24 4	May Dec	2003 2004	IV-1	Hatch Loan to Loan to Loan to
26	?	15 Oct 2001	5	4	HRF				IV-2	Hatch Death
27	М	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A26	9	???? Jul	2001	lt	Transfer f Transfer
28	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A26		???? Jul		lt	Transfer f Transfer
29	М	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A27	9	???? Jul Nov	2001		Transfer Transfer Death
30	F	????	WILD	WILD	KRAAIFONT A27	9	???? Jul Nov	2001		Transfer Transfer Death
31	?	11 Nov 2001	5	4	HRF		Nov Nov			Hatch Death
32	F	????	WILD	WILD	A29 A03	15		2001	HZ0752	Transfer Transfer Death
33	F	????	WILD	WILD	LONDON RP A03	23		2001	HZ0793	Transfer Transfer Death
34	М	30 Jun 2002	16	17	A16 A45					Hatch Loan to
35	?	9 Jul 2002	16	17	A16 A42					Hatch Loan to
36	?	12 Oct 2002	5	4	HRF		Oct Oct			Hatch Death
37	F	7 Aug 2003	5	4	HRF A10 HRF A44	21 27	Aug Oct	2004 2004	IV-3 IV-3 ESMERA	Hatch Loan to Transfer Loan to
38	?	5 Apr 2003	16	17	A16	5	Apr	2003		Hatch
39	?	9 Apr 2003	16	17	A16	9	Apr	2003		Hatch
40	М	????	WILD	WILD	WUPPERTAL	28	Mar	1991	91586A	Transfer
41	М	????	WILD	WILD	WUPPERTAL	28	Mar	1991	91586B	Transfer
42	F	25 Feb 1999	UNK5	UNK 6	A46 HRF WUPPERTAL	4 9	Nov	2004 2004	NOMARK 91586C	Hatch Transfer Loan to Death
43	F	21 Dec 1999	UNK5	UNK 6	A46 HRF WUPPERTAL	4 9	Nov	2004 2004	CR1	Hatch Transfer Loan to Death
44	F	21 Dec 2001	UNK5	UNK7	A46 HRF WUPPERTAL	4 9	Nov	2004 2004	CL2	Hatch Transfer Loan to Death

45	F	14 Dec 1999	UNK5	UNK 6		4	Nov	2004	V3 HZ0989	Hatch Transfer Loan to
46	?	30 Sep 2004	22	24	A37	30	Sep	2004		Hatch
47	М	~ Jun 1993	UNK 3		A48		~	2000	HUGO	Hatch Transfer Transfer
48	?	23 Mar 2004	16	17	A16	23	Mar	2004		Hatch
49	?	25 Mar 2004	16	17	A16	25	Mar	2004		Hatch
50	?	8 Aug 2004	16	17	A16	8	Aug	2004		Hatch
51	?	19 Aug 2004	16	17	A16	19	Aug	2004		Hatch
52	?	25 Aug 2004	16	17	A16	25	Aug	2004		Hatch
53	?	12 Jun 2005	34	25	A45	12	Jun	2005		Hatch
54	?	10 Jun 2005	16	17	A16	10	Jun	2005		Hatch
55	?	27 Jun 2005	16	17	A16	27	Jun	2005		Hatch
56	?	6 Oct 2005	16	17	A16	6	Oct	2005		Hatch
57	?	3 Nov 2005	16	17	A16	3	Nov	2005		Hatch

TOTALS: 14.22.21 (57)

#### Homopus femoralis: Total studbook population.

=====	====	=====	==============	=========	=======	============	=============	==============	======
Stud	#	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Date	Local ID	Event
=====									
	1	М	????	WILD	WILD	A28	~ Jan 200	1	Transfer
						HRF	23 Dec 200	1 I	Loan to
						A08	17 Apr 200	2	Loan to
	2	М	5555	WILD	WILD	A28	~ Jan 200	1	Transfer
	2	141		WILD	WILD				
						A08	23 Dec 200	1	Loan to
	3	М	5555	WILD	WILD	A28	~ Jan 200	1	Transfer
	-					HRF	23 Dec 200		Loan to
						ПКГ	23 Dec 200		LUAII LU

TOTALS: 3.0.0 (3)

Homopus signatus: Total studbook population. MULT1 are specimens 18 and 19, MULT2 specimens 20 and 21. UNK1 and UNK2 are unknown specimens outside of the studbook. ltf means that a specimen is lost to follow-up.

======= Stud #	====== Sex	======================================	====== Sire	====== Dam	Location	Date	Local ID	======================================
1	 М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A25	27 Sep 1999 30 Sep 1999 12 Jun 2004	5 I	Capture Transfer Loan to
2	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF	26 Sep 1999 30 Sep 1999 14 May 2004	5 II	Capture Transfer Death
3	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A25	26 Sep 1999 30 Sep 1999 12 Jun 2004	5 III	Capture Transfer Loan to
4	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF	28 Sep 1999 30 Sep 1999 24 Dec 1999	5 IV	Capture Transfer Death

F	-		LITE D	2		07	<b>17</b> - 1-	1000	TTT 1		
5	F	27 Feb 1996	WILD	3	HRF	27	F,ep	1996	III-1		Hatch
6	М	8 Nov 1996	1	3	HRF				III-2		Hatch
					A10						Loan to
					A31	7	May	2002			Loan to
					A10	8	Dec	2002			Loan to
7	T	24 Dec 1996	1	2	HRF	24	Dog	1006	III-3		Uptab
/	г	24 Dec 1990	T	3	A06						Hatch Loan to
					A07	5	Jul	2000			Loan to
					A18	14	Dec	2001			Loan to
					A31						Loan to
					A10	8	Dec	2002			Loan to
8	?	26 Jan 1997	1	2	HRF				II-2		Hatch
						2	Feb	1997			Death
9	F	30 Nov 1996	1	2	HRF	20	Nou	1006	II-1		Hatch
9	Г	30 100 1990	Т	2	пкг	30	NOV	1990	11-1		haten
10	М	22 Oct 1997	1	2	HRF	22	Oct	1997	II-3		Hatch
					A10						Loan to
					A31						Loan to
					A33	8	Nov	2002	UHURU		Loan to
11	М	10 Nov 1997	1	3	HRF				III-4		Hatch
					A06						Loan to
					A07						Loan to
					A16	10	sep	2000			Loan to
12	м	21 Nov 1997	1	2	HRF	21	Nov	1997	II-4		Hatch
12		21 100 1997	-	2	A07						Loan to
					A18						Loan to
					A31						Loan to
					A36	8	Dec	2002			Loan to
						20	Oct	2003			Death
1 2	м	26 Gam 1000	1	2		26	Gam	1000	TT 5		Ustab
13	М	26 Sep 1998	1	2	HRF A07				II-5		Hatch
					A18						Loan to Loan to
					A31						Loan to
					HRF				II-5		Transfer
14	М	22 Oct 1998	1	3	HRF				III-5		Hatch
					A07						Loan to
					A16	16	Sep	2000			Loan to
15	F	20 Sep 1999	1	2	UDF	20	Son	1000	TT_6		Ustab
10	Г	20 Sep 1999	T	2	A31						
					A18	8	Dec	2002			Loan to Loan to
16	?	4 Oct 1999	1	3	HRF	4	Oct	1999	III-6		Hatch
						4	Oct	1999			Death
											_
17	М	????	WILD	WILD	A12	8	Sep	1999		1. 6	Transfer
					A43	~	мау	2004		ltī	Loan to
18	М	????	WITID	WTT.D	SPRINGBOK	~16	Sen	1999	NONE		Canture
10	1.1		WILD	WIDD	A12		_				-
					A43		_				Loan to
							_				
19	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK	~16	Sep	1999	NONE		Capture
					A12						
					A43	~	May	2004		ltf	Loan to
20	π	2222			CDDTMCDOV	.16	C	1000	NTO NTE		Contine
20	г	????	WULD	мтпр	SPRINGBOK A12	~16 ~16	sep	1000	MIDOR		capture Transfor
					AIZ A43						
							may	2001		TCT	Louir CO
21	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK	~16	Sep	1999	NONE		Capture
											Transfer
					A43	~	May	2004		ltf	Loan to

22	М	19 Jun 2000	1	2	HRF A31	б 1	May	2000 2002 2002		Hatch Loan to Death
23	?	19 Jul 2000	1	2	HRF	19 j	Jul		II-8	Hatch Death
24	?	2 Aug 2000	1	3	HRF		-	2000 2000		Hatch Death
25	М	12 Sep 2000	1	3	HRF A31 A37	61	May	2002	III-8	Hatch Loan to Loan to
26	F	7 Oct 2000	1	2	HRF	7 ( 6 1	Oct May	2000 2002	II-9	Hatch Loan to Loan to
27	?	17 Oct 2000	MULT1			17 (	Oct	2000	SASHI	
28	?	15 Nov 2000	MULT1	MULT2					PEANUT	Hatch Loan to
29	?	15 Jul 2001	1	3		б 1	May		III-9	Hatch Loan to Death
30	?	26 Jul 2001	MULT1		A12 A43					Hatch Loan to
31	М	3 Aug 2001	1			61	May	2002	II-10	Hatch Loan to Loan to
32	?	10 Aug 2001	MULT1	20	A12 A43					Hatch Loan to
33	М	19 Aug 2001	1	3	HRF A31 A37	6 M 11 I	May Dec	2002	III-10 	Hatch Loan to Loan to Death
34	М	30 Sep 2001	1	3	HRF A31 A35	61	May	2002	III-11 	Hatch Loan to Loan to
35	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A07					Capture Transfer Loan to
36	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK	3 ( 6 (	Oct Oct	2001 2001	NONE	Capture Transfer Loan to
37	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF	3 (	Oct Oct	2001 2001	NONE	Capture Transfer
					A25 HRF	12 3	Jun	2004	0612-I	Loan to Transfer
38	F	???? ?????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A25 HRF	6 ( 6 (	Oct Oct	2001 2001		Capture Transfer Loan to Transfer
39	?	11 Jun 2002	1	3	HRF	11 i	Jun		III-12	Hatch Death
40	М	2 Jul 2002	1	3	HRF A39	2 d 12 <i>i</i>	Jul Apr	2002 2003	III-13 	Hatch Loan to
41	М	25 Jul 2002	1	3	HRF A08	25 3 19 2	Jul Apr	2002 2003	III-14 	Hatch Loan to

42	F	20 Aug 2002	1	2	HRF A08				II-11		Hatch Loan to
43	?	29 Sep 2002	1	2	HRF A40				II-12		Hatch Loan to
44	М	31 Oct 2002	35	36	A07 HRF A10	31	Oct	2002			Hatch Ownership Loan to
45	?	~ Jun 2002	MULT1	20	A12			2002 2002			Hatch Death
46	?	~ Jun 2002	MULT1	20	A12			2002 2002			Hatch Death
47	М	????	UNK1	UNK 2	A12 A43						Transfer Loan to
48	?	~ Jul 2002	MULT1	20	A12			2002 2002			Hatch Death
49	?	~ Jul 2002	MULT1	20	A12			2002 2002			Hatch Death
50	М	17 Jun 2003	1	3	HRF PRAHA				III-15 		Hatch Loan to
51	М	1 Jul 2003	1	2	HRF A41				II-13		Hatch Loan to
52	F	9 Jul 2003	1	3	HRF PRAHA						Hatch Loan to
53	F	20 Jul 2003	13	5	HRF	20	Jul	2003	030720		Hatch
54	F	5 Sep 2003	1	3	HRF A42		-		III-17 THEODO		Hatch Loan to
55	?	3 Sep 2003	1	2	HRF A42	7	Nov		II-14 		Hatch Loan to Death
56	?	22 Aug 2003	MULT1	20	A12 A43						Hatch Loan to
57	?	17 Sep 2003	MULT1	20	A12 A43	17 ~	Sep May	2003 2004		ltf	Hatch Loan to
58	?	20 Sep 2003	MULT1	20	A12 A43	20 ~	Sep May	2003 2004		ltf	Hatch Loan to
59	F	10 Jun 2004	1	3	HRF A49				III-18		Hatch Loan to
60	F	????	WILD	WILD	A37	~15	Mar	2003			Transfer
61	М	7 Oct 2003	WILD	60	A37	7	Oct	2003			Hatch
62	F	5 Jun 2004	WILD	60	A37	5	Jun	2004			Hatch
63	?	6 Jul 2004	35	36	A07 HRF						Hatch Ownership
64	М	29 Jul 2004	1	3	HRF A50				III-19		Hatch Loan to
65	?	31 Jul 2004	35	36	A07 HRF						Hatch Ownership
66	?	6 Aug 2004	13	5	HRF	6	Aug	2004	040806		Hatch
67	?	5 Aug 2004	WILD	60	A37	5	Aug	2004			Hatch

68	?	15 Aug 2004	35	36	A07 HRF	15 Aug 2004 Hatch 15 Aug 2004 Ownership
69	?	9 May 2005	37	38	HRF	9 May 2005 HSS69 Hatch
70	?	24 Jun 2005	1	3	A25 HRF	24 Jun 2005 DOPPIE Hatch 24 Jun 2005 Ownership
71	?	25 Jun 2005	44	7	A10 HRF	25 Jun 2005 Hatch 25 Jun 2005 Ownership
72	?	24 Jul 2005	MULT3	MULT4	HRF	24 Jul 2005 ?-1 Hatch
73	?	2 Aug 2005	37	38	HRF	2 Aug 2005 HSS73 Hatch
74	?	31 Jul 2005	1	3	A25 HRF	31 Jul 2005 Hatch 31 Jul 2005 Ownership

TOTALS: 26.18.30 (74)

### 4. NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following overview summarises all manuscripts and articles that were submitted, accepted, or published in 2005.

Subject	Submitted	Accepted	Published	Journal
Natural diet of the Namaqualand speckled	2002	2004		Chelonian Conservation and Biology
padloper (Homopus signatus signatus)	0000	0000		(English)
Husbandry and breeding account Homopus	2003	2003		Mertensiella (English)
spp.				
Egg and hatchling characteristics of the	2003			
Namaqualand speckled padloper (Homopus				
signatus signatus): preliminary data from a				
captive population				
Beobachtungen zur Nahrungsaufnahme einer	2004	2004	2005	Schildkröten im Focus (German)
Nachzucht von Homopus signatus signatus in				
Relation zur Luftfeuchtigkeit				
Overcoming environmental and morphological	2004	2005	2005	Canadian Journal of Zoology (English)
constraints: egg size and pelvic kinesis in the				
smallest tortoise, Homopus signatus				
Preliminary results of a long-term field study on	2005	2005	2005	Emys (English)
the Namagualand speckled padloper, Homopus	2000	2000	2000	
signatus signatus				
	2005	2005		African Jacumal of Llamatalam
Shell characteristics and sexual dimorphism in	2005	2005		African Journal of Herpetology
the Namaqualand speckled padloper, Homopus				(English)
signatus signatus				
Tick infestations in the Namaqualand speckled	2005	2005		African Zoology (English)
padloper, Homopus signatus signatus (Gmelin,				
1789)				

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Homopus Research Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organisation. All 2005 expenses were covered by external sources of income, some remaining from 2004. Costs for the new *H. boulengeri* field project were zero, as only an inventory was carried out. All costs associated with this inventory were covered privately by Victor Loehr.

[Financial overview has been removed from the internet version of this report]