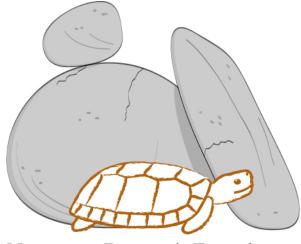
Homopus Research Foundation



Homopus Research Foundation

Annual Report 2015

Victor Loehr January 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015

The Homopus Research Foundation aims to facilitate the long-term survival of *Homopus* spp. in the wild, by gathering and distributing information about their biologies and by the formation of genetically healthy *ex situ* populations. In 2015, several activities contributed to this aim. The current report presents an overview of achievements in 2015, as well as activities planned for 2016 and thereafter. Moreover, the actual studbook populations for *Homopus areolatus*, *Homopus femoralis* and *Homopus signatus* are described, focussing on changes that occurred in 2015. All <u>previous annual reports</u> can be found on the website of the Homopus Research Foundation.

The 2014 annual report anticipated on several results for 2015. The following table summarises these plans, with results obtained in 2015.

Result	Due
Manuscript submitted on:	31-12-2015
• Scute abnormalities in wild <i>H. signatus</i> '00-'04	
2015: A manuscript was submitted, reviewed and revised in 2015. Additionally, a popular paper	
on the history of the studbook on <i>H. signatus</i> was published. See Chapter 6.	
Memorandum of understanding with Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature	31-12-2015
Conservation reviewed and signed	
2015: The department decided not to proceed with the memorandum. This means that the	
Homopus Research Foundation will continue to work based on the 2001 memorandum.	
Fieldwork conducted on <i>H. signatus</i> thermoregulation	Sep-2015
2015: Fieldwork was conducted in September. See Paragraph 1.3.	
5.5 H. signatus collected in the wild and added to the captive population	31-10-2015
2015: Tortoises were collected and added to the studbook in September. See Paragraph 1.1.	
Evaluation of breeding and non-breeding H. signatus husbandry conditions in studbook completed	01-07-2015
2015: The evaluation was completed in May and yielded concrete recommendations for several	
studbook locations. See Chapter 5.	
Studbook management plan H. areolatus drafted	31-12-2015
2015: A studbook management plan was drafted, reviewed and finalised. See Paragraph 1.2.	
Presentation and discussion held on in situ and ex situ conservation of Homopus (workshop Dutch-	13-05-2015
Belgium zoo foundation Harpij)	
2015: The Harpij workshop was cancelled. Instead, a presentation on the same topic was held at	
a meeting of Tortoise Welfare UK at Colchester Zoo in November.	
Habitat of Homopus spp. visited by four European studbook participants	Jan-2015
2015: This trip took place in January. Unfortunately, no Homopus spp. were encountered. In	
addition, a second trip brought staff from location TCBCC to South Africa, and the	
September fieldwork on H. signatus was attended by two studbook participants (see	
Paragraph 1.3).	

Further achievements that are worth listing:

- The Homopus Research Foundation and its projects were updated in the Dutch <u>National</u> <u>Academic Research and Collaborations Information System</u>.
- Magazine The Tortoise published a paper that used field data on *H. boulengeri* collected by the Homopus Research Foundation in 2005-2008 ("Vanishing with little fanfare: Boulenger's tortoise on the South African Karoo").
- Reprint requests for papers produced by the Homopus Research Foundation were received from:
 - Marine Conservation Society Seychelles;
 - o Wildlife Institute of India;
 - University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa);
 - o Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (Germany);
 - o private individual (France).

Most scientific papers from the Homopus Research Foundation are available for download at <u>Researchgate</u>.

- Review requests were received from:
 - o Pakistan Journal of Zoology;

- o Journal of Biology and Nature;
- book editor Reptile Ecology and Conservation: a Handbook of Techniques (Oxford University Press).
- Presentations were held:
 - o Tortoises of the genus *Homopus*: husbandry and genetic management (invited lecture). Colchester Zoo, UK.
 - o The new modern herpetoculture challenges. Natural Museum, Italy.
 - Relationships between conservation issues and captive *ex situ* breeding. Capranica Prenestina and Frosinone (both Italy).
- Invitations were received:
 - Leading a discussion group at the annual studbook keepers meeting of the European Studbook Foundation.
 - Presenting on keeping and breeding *Homopus* at a meeting of the Turtle and Tortoise Preservation Group, USA.
 - o Contributing to a paper "European Studbook Foundation: a new era".
- Information requests were received regarding:
 - establishing an organisation for salamander research similar to the Homopus Research Foundation (Netherlands);
 - using agreements similar to those used in the studbooks on *H. femoralis* and *H. signatus* for transfers of captive-bred, critically endangered salamanders (Austria);
 - setting up a research schedule for fieldwork on *Testudo graeca* (UK);
 - o identification of tortoise artefacts from South Africa (USA);
 - o developing a pamphlet on Namibian tortoises for use in schools (Namibia);
 - o ranges and ecologies of *H. areolatus* and *H. signatus* (South Africa);
 - o applying for permits for the husbandry of *H. areolatus* (South Africa).
- The National Museum (South Africa) requested (complete) *Homopus* skeletons for use by archaeologists to identify tortoise remains found at their sites. Unfortunately, no skeletons were available because most dead studbook tortoises are discarded (after dissection) or donated to local museums.
- A long-term captive, misidentified, male *H. signatus* in Germany was identified as *H. boulengeri*. The Austrian owner of the tortoise has informed the CITES authorities, and the Homopus Research Foundation has enquired in South Africa for the availability of a surplus female for research purposes.
- Photographic material was provided to several book publishers, app producers and webmasters (e.g., World Association of Zoos and Aquariums).
- A new agreement was developed for loans of *Homopus* spp. from the Homopus Research Foundation to studbook participants. This agreement will be used for all new transfers.
- The website of the Homopus Research Foundation was updated with a <u>procedural description</u> <u>how to apply if one wants to receive *H. signatus* and <u>participate in the studbook</u>. In addition, studbook overviews, photos and other content was updated.</u>

1.1. Studbook management plan Homopus signatus

The first version of the <u>studbook management plan for *H. signatus*</u> was finished in 2013. It provides clear directions for the development of the studbook in the next years and decades and will be updated every five years. The plan will also be updated after every supplementation of the studbook with new founders and after each change in the IUCN conservation status of the taxon. The annual reports of the Homopus Research Foundation will report annual progress of the realisation of the studbook management plan.

The year 2015 was a very important year for the realisation of the studbook management plan. The small number of founders in the studbook was jeopardising the development of a genetically healthy captive population. To solve this problem, the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation granted permits to collect and export 5.5 founders from the wild. The non-commercial nature and the conservation aims of the studbook were instrumental in the acquisition of



permits, because Northern Cape legislation does not generally allow taking tortoises from the wild. In September, 5.5 wild *H. signatus* were located in the same wild population where the previous founders originated and transported to the Netherlands.

To avoid detriment to the wild *H. signatus* population, all new founders were collected at sites that were unlikely to sustain *H. signatus* habitat in the future (e.g., housing construction sites). Collecting success depended on tortoise activity and collecting effort. It would not have been possible to collect the founders without the help of three volunteers: Olda Mudra, Sérgio Silva and Sam Beales. A further report on the 2015 collecting of *H. signatus* was posted on the website.



Upon arrival in the Netherlands, all tortoises were extensively swabbed for viral and bacterial examination by the University of Camerino (Italy). Faecal samples and external parasites had already been collected during capture and transport. The swabs and other samples will provide insight in the health of the population from where the tortoises were taken. Results will be published in a scientific paper.



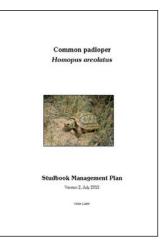
The founders were distributed among five existing studbook locations to spread risks and efforts. Locations had been selected based on experience, past performance and active involvement in the studbook. Each location was provided with a detailed protocol to adjust the tortoises to captivity and to northern hemisphere climatic conditions. The protocol was based on the acclimation of previously collected and imported tortoises and lizards. All tortoises started feeding soon after they had been released in their enclosures and gained body mass. As expected, several females produced eggs. In total, four eggs were produced and are currently incubated.

To ensure that more studbook participants than only the participants receiving new founders would (on the short term) benefit from the import, existing breeding couples at receiving participants' are being transferred to other studbook locations. This way, additional participants will be able to start breeding *H. signatus*.

It appears that the collecting, transport and acclimation of the new founders could not have been more successful. Eggs are expected to hatch from the end of January and may add additional genetic variation to the studbook population. To detect possible genetic relationships between offspring and collected males, DNA samples will be taken and analysed. The studbook management plan will be updated in 2016 (see Chapter 2).

1.2. Studbook management plan Homopus areolatus

After a discussion paper had been distributed among the studbook participants for *H. areolatus* in 2013 and the responses of participants had been summarised in 2014, further developments needed to wait for input from location A56. Location A56 represented additional locations that had received *H. areolatus* owned by location A56. In April 2015, location A56 decided to withdraw its tortoises from the studbook. Although it was sad to see that one participant did not share the other participants' view on the future of the studbook, the decision of location A56 cleared the way to finalise the studbook management plan. Coincidentally, the withdrawal had little effect on the remaining studbook population, because location A56 owned offspring (partly inbred) originating from only one bloodline that remains represented in the studbook. A draft plan was distributed and reviewed by the participants, after which it was finalised in July. The studbook management plan for *H. areolatus* is the second plan drawn up under auspices of the Homopus Research Foundation and the European



Studbook Foundation. The annual reports of the Homopus Research Foundation will report annual progress of the realisation of the studbook management plan.

Two concrete recommendations in the studbook management plan were explored in 2015. First, the two studbook participants who were keeping a solitary male and a solitary female were asked if they would be prepared to combine these two potential founders. Unfortunately, location A37 was not prepared to

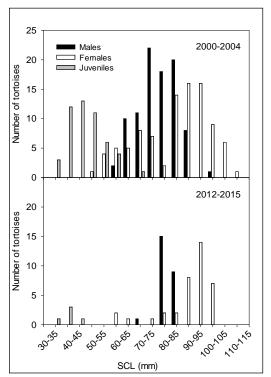
combine the female with a male due to past reproductive issues. Second, location WUPPERTAL was asked to have two founder tortoises tested that might be genetically related. The company Gendika (Netherlands) has sent sampling materials to location WUPPERTAL, where DNA samples will be taken in 2016.

1.3. Progress thermoregulation field study Homopus signatus

This study was permitted by the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation. The permits that were issued (see Chapter 8) require periodic updates for the department. Because this information may be informative for *Homopus* studbook participants, it is included in the annual reports of the Homopus Research Foundation.

Fieldwork was conducted from 2 till 19 September and was attended by a studbook participant from Portugal (Sérgio Silva) and two other volunteers (Olda Mudra from Czech and Sam Beales from the UK). The weather was relatively warm without rain. Food plant availability was good initially, but plants started to wilt during the fieldwork. Similar to 2014, few live *H. signatus* were encountered. We found 26 individuals (22 recaptured from previous years), most of which (15 individuals) were female and only one was a juvenile. The low capture rate did not appear to be a result of weather conditions, because collecting sites (see Paragraph 1.1) yielded larger numbers of tortoises per time unit searching. Moreover, combined 2012-2015 data indicate that the population composition has drastically changed compared to 2000-2004, with hardly any tortoises left in the smaller size classes. The observed population composition in 2012-2015 may reflect increased predation levels. In 2016, population dynamics will be modelled and analysed (see Chapter 2).

One aim of the 2015 fieldwork was to recover a tortoise with a failing transmitter and eight tortoises with iButtons. The tortoise with the failing transmitter (and iButton) was found, as well as two tortoises with iButtons. All iButton data could be downloaded and will enable analysis of



thermoregulation not only for females but also for males. Considering our search effort in 2014-2015 and the fact that missing tortoises with iButtons had relatively small body sizes, it is unlikely that all four missing tortoises would still be in the study population.

A dead female with a transmitter that failed in 2003 was also found. The carcass was estimated to be 1-2 years old, showing that the female survived at least 10 years despite carrying a transmitter. Previously, a (live) female had been recovered that had carried an iButton for a period of 9 years. These results indicate that remaining transmitters and iButtons on tortoises may not impede *H. signatus*.

The fieldwork for the thermoregulation study stopped in 2015. Results will be analysed and published in 2016-2017 (see Chapter 2). Currently, the Homopus Research Foundation is not conducting field studies on *Homopus* spp. However, a field survey of *H. boulengeri* may be conducted early in 2017.

2. PLANS FOR 2016 AND THEREAFTER

Result	Due	Current status
Manuscripts submitted on:		
 Population dynamics of H. signatus '00-'15 	31-12-2016	Data available
• Thermoregulation in wild <i>H. signatus</i> '12-'15	31-12-2017	Data available
• Parasite infestations in wild <i>H. signatus</i> '15	31-12-2017	Samples ready for lab processing
• Long-term captive reproduction in <i>H. signatus</i>	31-12-2018	Data available
• Captive reproduction and growth in <i>H. femoralis</i>	31-12-2018	Data partly available
Studbook management plan for <i>H. signatus</i> updated	30-06-2016	Not yet started
Genetic relationship between <i>H. areolatus</i> studbook	30-06-2016	Sampling materials sent to location where
numbers 4 and 5 tested		the tortoises are kept
Genetic relationships between offspring from new H.	31-12-2016	Offspring to be born from January
signatus founders and male founders tested		
Presentation held on keeping and breeding Homopus	Nov-16	Standing invitation
(Turtle and Tortoise Preservation Group, USA)		
5.5 H. signatus collected in the wild and added to the	31-12-2020	Not yet taken any action
captive population ¹		

The table below lists results anticipated for 2016 and thereafter, with progress indicated:

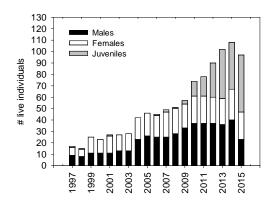
¹ Conditional are granted permits, tortoise activity and field personnel.

3. STUDBOOK SUMMARIES

To keep the studbook registrations up to date, it is vital that all studbook participants keep the coordinator informed of any changes. In the studbooks on *H. femoralis* and *H. signatus*, each participant has accepted this obligation in a formal agreement between participant and the Homopus Research Foundation. Regardless of the agreements, most participants are very motivated and inform the coordinator spontaneously when changes occur throughout the year. Others choose to wait until information is requested by the coordinator at the end of each year. However, some participants remain silent for an entire year or longer, despite repeated messages from the studbook coordinator. In order to keep track of where these communication flaws occur, the annual reports include a list of unresponsive locations. This will make it easier for the reader to assess the validity of studbook information per location, and will facilitate the coordinator when approaching a silent participant. In 2015, all locations have responded.

Homopus areolatus

Live specimens on 1 January 2015: 108 (excluding 6 specimens lost to follow-up) Number of locations on 1 January 2015: 33 (7 countries, including 2 zoos) New registrations: 0 Births: 12, at 4 locations Deaths: 7, at 5 locations Live specimens on 31 December 2015: 97 (excluding 36 specimens lost to follow-up) Number of locations on 31 December 2015: 12 (7 countries, including 2 zoos) Interpretation of changes:



In 2015, one studbook location (A56) that owned a large group of offspring produced at location A46 decided to stop participation in the studbook. Because the tortoises owned by location A56 were housed at various locations, these additional locations had to be removed from the studbook as well. Despite the reduction in studbook locations from 33 to 12, there was

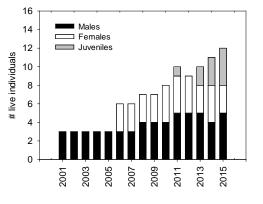
virtually no impact on the quantity and quality of the remaining studbook population. All *H. areolatus* owned by location A56 represented a single bloodline (i.e., had the same parents and were partly inbred) and this bloodline remains represented in the studbook at locations A46, A48, A66 and A77. In addition, the net studbook population size reduced only marginally, from 108 to 97 tortoises.

Reproduction continued at four locations, and several *H. areolatus* that had been born at studbook locations before 2015 were registered in 2015. Six individuals died from various causes. One individual was very old and may have died from old age. Location TCBCC kept struggling to keep juveniles alive and lost two. Representatives from TCBCC visited the natural habitat of *H. areolatus* to improve husbandry methods. Three tortoises died from unknown causes at locations A45, A48 and A70. One carcass was brought to a vet for dissection but this was not possible due to autolysis.

The <u>studbook management plan</u> for *H. areolatus*, which was finished in 2015 (see Paragraph 1.2), allows us to guard the genetic quality of the studbook population as it further increases in size. For example, the plan contains concrete recommendations for combinations of tortoises in the studbook. At this moment, three locations keep and own large numbers of genetically related tortoises. It is essential that offspring from these locations are transferred and combined to enable the production of a genetically healthy next generation. An obvious challenge in the execution of the plan is the fact that most *H. areolatus* are privately owned. However, the plan was drawn up in collaboration with the studbook participants, increasing its support. In light of the current studbook population, regular breeding, moderate mortality and the availability of a studbook management plan, the perspectives for the studbook are good.

Homopus femoralis

Live specimens on 1 January 2015: 11 Number of locations on 1 January 2015: 3 (2 countries) New registrations: 0 Births: 1 Deaths: 0 Live specimens on 31 December 2015: 12 Number of locations on 31 December 2015: 4 (3 countries) Interpretation of changes:

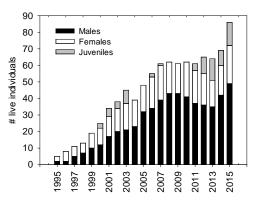


The studbook population *H. femoralis* slightly grew due to the birth of one individual and zero mortality. Location A55 was provided with a captive-bred female to form a genetically related couple. The purpose of the three females that were collected in the wild and imported in 2006 was to

gather and publish information on the biology of *H. femoralis*. Therefore, the studbook will focus on breeding and raising offspring to generate data on reproduction, growth and longevity, rather than on sound genetic management.

Homopus signatus

Live specimens on 1 January 2015: 69 (excluding 16 specimens lost to follow-up) Number of locations on 1 January 2015: 35 (10 countries, including 2 zoos) New registrations: 10 Births: 9, at 4 locations Deaths: 2, at 2 locations Live specimens on 31 December 2015: 86 (excluding 16 specimens lost to follow-up) Number of locations on 31 December 2015: 39 (11 countries, including 2 zoos) Interpretation of changes:



After 7 years of a relatively constant population size, 10

new founders were collected in the wild and added to the studbook population (see Paragraph 1.1). In addition, eight offspring were born compared to only two deaths (one drowned after escaping from its enclosure and the other one found lying on its back). The new founders produced a total of four eggs that may hatch early in 2016. Consequently, perspectives to develop the population as described in the

studbook management plan have greatly improved. Several challenges also still exist:

- Bloodline 1 x 2 remains underrepresented in F2 offspring. It is important that locations that keep offspring from 1 x 2 (i.e., A08, A40, A57, A59, A68) start produce offspring. In 2014, a questionnaire was distributed and results analysed to detect factors inhibiting production of F2 offspring in general. Following the analysis (see Chapter 5), location A40 improved its husbandry by adding bright illumination, installing an astrotimer, and provoking mating behaviour by cooling down the enclosure in winter nights. Location A57 addressed the relatively low retreat temperatures in summer. <u>Husbandry recommendations</u> are available for all keepers to optimise husbandry methods.
- The genes from female 60 (lost to follow-up) need to be better represented in the population. To achieve this, offspring from bloodline 25×60 will be combined with offspring from bloodline 35×36 .
- Risks (e.g., changing enclosures, implementing untested husbandry methods, outdoor husbandry) to offspring from founders 2 and 3 should be minimised, because these founders have deceased and offspring cannot be replaced.
- The sex ratio of the population remains skewed towards males. However, progress has been
 made in the past years to gradually develop an incubation protocol that produce females (see
 previous <u>annual reports</u>). Currently, virtually all breeders in the studbook are incubating their
 eggs at a diurnal temperature cycle of 33°C and 28°C, with a constant temperature of 33 °C from
 incubation day 30 to 50 (all temperatures measured with a calibrated thermometer). In 20162017, it will be possible to reliably determine the gender of the first offspring incubated using this
 protocol.

4. ACTUAL STUDBOOK OVERVIEWS

The tables below give an overview of all live tortoises that are available in the studbooks on *H. areolatus*, *H. femoralis* and *H. signatus*. The tables do not include dead tortoises and tortoises lost to follow-up. Full overviews of all tortoises registered in the studbooks may be <u>downloaded from the website</u>.

Homopus areolatus: live and available studbook population. MULTX are groups of unregistered specimens at locations outside of the studbook, except MULT4 consists of studbook numbers 59 and 60. UNKX are specimens at locations outside of the studbook.

	Sex					Dam	Location	Dat					Event
A10 62	F	~25	Nov	2007	5	4	A10 HRF A44 A10	~25 27	Nov Mar	2007 2011		_	Hatch Ownership Loan to Transfer
94	М	7	Jul	2009	16	17	A16 A44 A10	5	Jun	2010	AUGUS	Г	Hatch Transfer Transfer
185	?	12	Sep	2015	94	62	A10 HRF						Hatch Ownership
186	?	15	Sep	2015	94	62	A10 HRF						Hatch Ownership
187 Totals:	? 1.1.3		-				A10 HRF	17	Sep	2015		-	Hatch Ownership
A16 16 17	M F		????		WILD WILD		A16 A16						Transfer Transfer

39	М	9 Apr 2003	16	17	A16	9	Apr 2003		Hatch
48	М	23 Mar 2004	16	17	A16	23	Mar 2004		Hatch
49	F	25 Mar 2004	16	17	A16	25	Mar 2004		Hatch
50	F	8 Aug 2004	16	17	A16	8	Aug 2004		Hatch
51	М	19 Aug 2004	16	17	A16	19	Aug 2004		Hatch
52	F	25 Aug 2004	16	17	A16	25	Aug 2004		Hatch
54	М	10 Jun 2005	16	17	A16	10	Jun 2005		Hatch
55	М	27 Jun 2005	16	17	A16	27	Jun 2005		Hatch
56	F	6 Oct 2005	16	17	A16	6	Oct 2005		Hatch
57	F	3 Nov 2005	16	17	A16	3	Nov 2005		Hatch
108	М	8 Mar 2010	47	37	A44 A16		Mar 2010 Jun 2010		Hatch Transfer
109	F	8 Mar 2010	47	37	A44 A16		Mar 2010 Jun 2010		Hatch Transfer
115	?	30 May 2010	16	17	A16	30	May 2010		Hatch
116	?	31 May 2010	16	17	A16	31	May 2010		Hatch
122	?	2 Jul 2011	16	17	A16	2	Jul 2011		Hatch
134	?	27 Apr 2012	16	17	A16	27	Apr 2012		Hatch
135	?	25 Aug 2012	16	17	A16	25	Aug 2012		Hatch
146	?	9 Apr 2013	16	17	A16	9	Apr 2013		Hatch
147	?	9 Apr 2013	16	17	A16	9	Apr 2013		Hatch
152	?	11 Jun 2014	16	17	A16	11	Jun 2014		Hatch
153	?	11 Jun 2014	16	17	A16	11	Jun 2014		Hatch
157	?	6 Sep 2014	55	109	A16	6	Sep 2014		Hatch
182	?	26 Jul 2015	108	56	A16	26	Jul 2015		Hatch
184	?	18 Aug 2015	108	56	A16	18	Aug 2015		Hatch
Totals:	7.7.1	2 (26)							
A37									
22	Μ	????	WILD	WILD	UNKNOWN A20		???? ????	NONE	Capture Transfer
					A21 A37	17 15	Oct 2000 Sep 2002	1	Transfer Transfer
23	F	????	WILD	WILD	UNKNOWN		????		Capture
23	r		MILLO	WIDD	A20 A21		???? Oct 2000		Transfer Transfer
					A37	15	Sep 2002	2	Transfer
24	F	~ 1993	UNK1	UNK 2	A20 A21 A37	17 15	~ 1993 Oct 2000 Sep 2002		Hatch Transfer Transfer
46	М	30 Sep 2004	22	24	A37	30	Sep 2004		Hatch
107	F	8 Mar 2010	47	37	A44	8	Mar 2010		Hatch
					A37		May 2010		Transfer
111	F	29 Mar 2010	47		A44 A37	7	Mar 2010 Jun 2010		Hatch Transfer
172	?	5 Jan 2014	22		A37				Hatch
173	?	12 Jan 2014	22		A37		Jan 2014		Hatch
174	?	15 Aug 2014	22		A37		Aug 2014		Hatch
175	?		22		A37		Jan 2015		Hatch
176	?	15 Jun 2015	22	24	A37	15	Jun 2015		Hatch
177	?	15 Feb 2012	22		A37		Feb 2012		Hatch

	?							15				Hatch
179	?	15	Feb	2005	22	24	A37	15	Feb	2005		Hatch
	?							15				Hatch
183	?	11	Aug	2015	22	24	A37	11	Aug	2015		Hatch
Totals:	2.4.1	0 (10										
A42												
35	М	9	Jul	2002	16	17	A16 A42	9 ~30	Jul Sep	2002 2005		Hatch Loan to
Totals:												
A44												
								16				Hatch
	?							18				Hatch
133	?	13	Aug	2012	94	62	A44 HRF	13 13	Aug Aug	2012 2012		Hatch Ownership
149	?	27	Apr	2013	94	62	A44	27 27	Apr	2013		Hatch
Totals:												Ownership
A45 25	F	15	Sep	2001	5	4	HRF	15	Sep	2001	IV-1	Hatch
							A10 A16	15 24 4	May Dec	2003		Loan to Loan to
								27				Loan to
				2005	34	25	A45	12	Jun	2005		Hatch
Totals:	1.1.0	(2)										
A46				-			- 46	0	~	1005		
58				?				9	-			Transfer
59								9	_			Transfer
60	F							25				Transfer
123					58							Hatch
	F							24				Hatch
125				2012	58	MULT4		31				Hatch
126								1				Hatch
127				2012								Hatch
128				2012				3				Hatch
	F							4				Hatch
				2013				~18				Hatch
					58	MULT4						Hatch
				2013				~27				Hatch
				2013				~ 6				Hatch
				2013				~17				Hatch
				2013				~17				Hatch
142				2013				~ 4				Hatch
	?			2013		MULT4						Hatch
144	?	~26	Mar	2013	58	MULT4	A46	~26	Mar	2013		Hatch
145	?	~26	Mar	2013	58			~26				Hatch
	?					MULT4	A46	29	Jan	2014		Hatch
163	?	29	Jan	2014	58	MULT4	A46	29	Jan	2014		Hatch
164	?	20	Feb	2014	58	MULT4	A46	20	Feb	2014		Hatch

165	?	20	Feb	2014	58	MULT4	A46	20	Feb	2014		Hatch
166	?	21	Feb	2014	58	MULT4	A46	21	Feb	2014		Hatch
167	?	27	Feb	2014	58	MULT4	A46	27	Feb	2014		Hatch
168	?	10	Mar	2014	58	MULT4	A46	10	Mar	2014		Hatch
169	?	13	Feb	2015	58	MULT4	A46	13	Feb	2015		Hatch
170	?	20	Feb	2015	58	MULT4	A46	20	Feb	2015		Hatch
171	?	20	Mar	2015	58	MULT4	A46	20	Mar	2015		Hatch
Totals:	3.7.2	0 (30										
A48 82	F	~15	Mar	2007	58		A46 A54 HRF	~15	Jun	2008		Hatch Loan to
								14	Jan	2008		Ownership Loan to
93	М	7	Jul	2009	16		A16 A44 A48	5	Jun	2010		Hatch Transfer Transfer
131	?	27	May	2012	94	62	A44 HRF A48	27 27 19	May	2012		Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals:												
A66												
79	М	~15	Mar	2007	58	MULT4	A46 A54 HRF	~15 ~15 ~15	Mar Jun Jun	2007 2008 2008		Hatch Loan to Ownership
							A66	11	Apr	2015		Loan to
81	F	~15	Mar	2007	58	MULT4	A46 A54 HRF	~15 ~15 ~15	Mar Jun Jun	2007 2008 2008		Hatch Loan to Ownership
Totals:	1.1.0	(2)					A66					Loan to
A70 110	М	8	Mar	2010	47	37	A44 HRF	8 8	Mar Mar	2010 2010		
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A70					Loan to
A77 84	М	~ 7	Feb	2008	58	MULT4	A46 A77	~ 7 2	Feb Jun	2008 2011		Hatch Transfer
85	М	~ 7	Feb	2008	58	MULT4	A46	~ 7	Feb	2008		Hatch Transfer
Totals:	2.0.0	(2)										Transfer
					Behler Ch WILD			~16	????	1000		Transfer
							A12 A43	~10	May	2004	ADEOO2	Transfer Transfer Loan to Transfer
11	F		222	C	WIID							
11	г			:	WILD	MILD	A12	~16	Sep	1999	A5	Transfer Transfer Loan to Transfer
matala.	1 1 0	(2)					TCBCC	~7	May Oct	2004	AREO01	Transfer
Totals: 	±.±.0	(2)										
WUPPERT	AL - W	uppei	rtal	Zoolo	ogical Gar	ten MIII T2	KRAAIFONT		2222	5		^U at ab
4	Г			•	MULLI	Z LLUI	HRF A10	21	Nov	1997	IV	Hatch Transfer
							AIU WUPPERTAL	27 13	Sep	2004 2014		Transfer Loan to Loan to
5	М		????	?	MULT1	MULT2	KRAAIFONT	~ -	????	1005		Hatch
							HRF A10	21 27	Nov Oct	1997 2004	V	Hatch Ownership Loan to
							WUPPERTAL	13	Sep	2014		Loan to

 40
 M
 ???
 WILD
 WUPPERTAL
 28
 Mar 1991
 91586A
 Transfer

 Totals:
 2.1.0
 (3)
 ------ ------ ------

 TOTALS:
 23.24.50
 (97)
 ------ ------ ------

Stud	#	Sex	Hat	ch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Dat	ce		Local	ID	Event
	===:	======	====					===:	====				
410	2	М		????	WILD	WILD	A28 A08 A10	23	Dec	2001		_	Transfer Loan to Loan to
	5	F		????	WILD	WILD	BEAUF W HRF A10	19	Mar	2006 2006 2006	NONE	_	Capture Transfer Loan to
	7	М	7	Jun 2008	3	4							Hatch
lota	ls:	2.1.0	(3)				A10	22	Oct	2014		-	Loan to
455	8	М	30	Jun 2010	3	4	HRF A55	30 26	Jun Jun	2010 2014		-	Hatch Loan to
	10	F	28	May 2011	3	4							Hatch Loan to
ſota	ls:	1.1.0	(2)										
459	12	М	12	Jul 2013	3	4	HRF	12	Jul	2013		_	Hatch
ľota	ls:	1.0.0	(1)				A59	2	Aug	2015		-	Loan to
HRF	– Но З	omopus M	Rese	earch Four ????	ndation WILD	WILD	A28 HRF			2001 2001	III	Ē	Transfer Loan to
	4	F		????	WILD	WILD	BEAUF W HRF				NONE		Capture Transfer
	13	?	15	Jun 2014	3	4	HRF	15	Jun	2014		_	Hatch
	14	?	18	Jun 2014	3	4	HRF	18	Jun	2014		_	Hatch
	15	?	19	Jun 2014	3	4	HRF	19	Jun	2014		_	Hatch
	16	?	26	Jun 2015	3	4	HRF	26	Jun	2015		_	Hatch
lota	ls:	1.1.4	(6)										

TOTALS: 5.3.4 (12)

Homopus signatus: live and available studbook population. MULT1 are specimens 18 and 19, MULT2 specimens 20 and 21, MULT3 are specimens 13 (with MULT4 = 9) or 37 and MULT4 are specimens 9 or 38. UNK1 and UNK2 are unknown specimens outside of the studbook. Specimen number 95 is inbred and not available for further breeding.

======= Stud # ========	Sex	Hatch I	Date ====================================	Sire	====== Dam =======	Location	 Date 	Local ID	Event
A08									
42	F	20 Aug	2002	1	2	HRF A08		2002 II-11 2003	Hatch Loan to
73	М	2 Aug	2005	37	38	HRF	2 Aug		Hatch
15	1.1	2 Aug	2005	57	50	A08	5	2009	Loan to
95	М	18 Sep	2007	41	42	A08		2007	Hatch
Totals:	2.1.0	(3)				HRF	~18 Sep 1	2007	Ownership

710												
A10 35	М		????	2	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A07 A10	6 16	Oct Dec	2001 2001		Capture Transfer Loan to Loan to
36	F		????	2	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A07 A10	3 6 16	Oct Oct Dec	2001 2001 2001		Capture Transfer Loan to Loan to
137	М	21	Jun	2014	35	36	A10 HRF	21	Jun	2014		Hatch Ownership
138	F	22	Aug	2014	35	36	A10 HRF	22 22	Aug Aug	2014 2014		Hatch Ownership
139	F	1	Sep	2014	35	36	A10 HRF	1 1	Sep Sep	2014 2014		Hatch Ownership
145	?	20	Jun	2015	35	36	A10 HRF	20 20	Jun Jun	2015 2015		Hatch Ownership
146	?	6	Jul	2015	35	36	A10 HRF	6 6	Jul Jul	2015 2015		Hatch Ownership
147	?	28	Aug	2015	35	36	A10 HRF	28 28	Aug Aug	2015 2015		Hatch Ownership
148	?	16	Sep	2015	35	36	A10 HRF					Hatch Ownership
149	?	17	Sep	2015	35	36	A10 HRF	17 17	Sep Sep	2015 2015		Hatch Ownership
153	М		????	2	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A10	22	Sep	2015	NONE	Capture Ownership Loan to
158	F		????	ò	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A10	22	Sep	2015		Capture Ownership Loan to
Totals:	3.4.5	(12)) 									
A18 69	М	9	May	2005	37	38	A33	28	May	2006	HSS69 NURI	Hatch Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0											
A37 86			Apr	2006	25	60	A37	~20	Apr	2006		Hatch
Totals:	1.0.0	(⊥) 										
A39 40 Totals:	м 1.0.0	2	Jul	2002	1	3	HRF A39	2 12	Jul Apr	2002 2003	III-13 	Hatch Loan to
A40 43	F	29	Sep	2002	1	2	HRF A40	29 6	Sep Jun	2002 2003		Hatch Loan to
91	М	3										Hatch Loan to
Totals:	1.1.0	(2)										
A42 41	М	25	Jul	2002	1	3	HRF A08 A60	25 19 12	Jul Apr Oct	2002 2003 2009	III-14 	Hatch Loan to Loan to Loan to
Totals:							A42	22	Jan	2010		LOAN LO
A50 1	М		????	2	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A25 A50	27 30 12 8	Sep Sep Jun Mar	1995 1995 2004 2009	NONE I	Capture Transfer Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)										

A52 132	М	23 Oct 2013	35	36	HRF	~23 Oct 23 Oct	2013 _		Hatch Ownership
Totals:	1.0.0				A52	11 Apr			Loan to
A55									
74	М	31 Jul 2005	1	3	A25 HRF A55	31 Jul 31 Jul 24 Mar	2005		Hatch Ownership Loan to
96	F	30 Jul 2007	35	36	A07 HRF A61 A64 A55	30 Jul 30 Jul 13 Apr 10 May 12 Sep	2007 2008 2009		Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to Loan to
125	Μ	7 Jul 2012	74	96	A55 HRF A90 A55	7 Jul 7 Jul 1 Mar 25 Aug	2012 2013		Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to
143	?	5 Aug 2015	74	96	A55 HRF	5 Aug 5 Aug			Hatch Ownership
144	?	20 Jun 2015	74	96	A55 HRF	20 Jun 20 Jun			Hatch Ownership
151	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A55	22 Sep 22 Sep 22 Sep	2015 _		Capture Ownership Loan to
156	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A55	22 Sep	2015 _		Capture Ownership Loan to
Totals:	3.2.2					-	-		
A57 10	М	22 Oct 1997	1	2	HRF A10 A31 A33 A57	22 Oct 4 Aug 7 May 8 Nov 6 Apr	2001 . 2002 . 2002 .	UHURU	Hatch Loan to Loan to Loan to Loan to
79	F	9 Aug 2006	37	38	HRF A57	9 Aug 5 Nov			Hatch Loan to
150	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A57	22 Sep 22 Sep 22 Sep	2015 _		Capture Ownership Loan to
155	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A57	22 Sep 22 Sep 22 Sep	2015		Capture Ownership Loan to
Totals:	2.2.0	(4)							
A59 51	М	1 Jul 2003	1	2	HRF A41 A59		2003 2003 2008		Hatch Loan to Loan to
107	F	21 Jul 2009	35	36	A07 HRF A67 A59	21 Jul 21 Jul 13 Mar 8 Mar	2009 _		Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to
113	М	16 Jun 2010	37	38	HRF A59	16 Jun 3 Dec	2010 _ 2011 _		Hatch Loan to
152	М	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A59	22 Sep 22 Sep 22 Sep	2015		Capture Ownership Loan to
157	F	????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A59	22 Sep 22 Sep 22 Sep	2015 _		Capture Ownership Loan to
Totals: 	3.2.0	(5)							

A63 88	М	~15	Nov	2005	25		HRF	~15	Nov	2005		Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A39 A63	30 24 17	Mar	2011 2014		Loan to Loan to
A65 72	М	24	Jul	2005	MULT3	MULT4	HRF				?-1	
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A65	17	Oct	2009		Loan to
A67												
76	F	20	Jun	2006	13	5	A54	24	Mar	2007	V-4	Hatch Loan to Loan to
106	М	20	Мау	2009	35		A07 HRF A67	20	May	2009		Hatch Ownership Loan to
121	М	23	Sep	2011	35			23 23 18	Sep Sep Nov	2011 2011 2011		Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals:	2.1.0	(3)										
A68 9	ਸ	30	Nov	1996	1	2	нвғ	30	Nov	1996	II-1	Hatch
							A68	15	May	2014		Loan to
99	М	21	Мау	2008	37	38	HRF A68	21 5	May Jun	2008		Hatch Loan to
				2008	37	38	HRF A68	24 5	Jun Jun	2008 2010		Hatch Loan to
Totals:	2.1.0	(3)										
A75 59	М	10	Jun	2004	1	3	A61	10 ~17 10	Apr	2005		Hatch Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A75	10 27	Apr	2011	PANSER	Loan to
A76												
114	М	4	Jul	2010	37	9	HRF A76	4 ~27	Jul Jun	2010 2011		Hatch Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)										
A78 71	М	25	Jun	2005	44	7	A10					Hatch
							HRF A58 A10	6	May	2008		Ownership Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A78					Loan to
A79 118	F	1	May	2010	44	7	A10 HRF A58	~ 1	May	2010		Hatch Ownership Loan to
							A10 A79	22	Jan	2012		Loan to Loan to
Totals:	0.1.0	(1)										
A80 109	F	3	Feb	2010	44	7	A10	3	Feb	2010		Hatch
							HRF A58 A10	~ 3 10	Feb Nov	2010 2011		Ownership Loan to Loan to
Totals:	0.1.0	(1)					A80	17	Mar			Loan to
A83				1005	 -					1005	 TTT 4	пьь -1-
11	М	10	Nov	1997	1	3	HRF A06 A07 A16	22 5 16	Nov Jul Sep	1998 2000 2000	III-4 	Hatch Loan to Loan to Loan to
							A83	14	mar	2015		Loan to

112	М	8	Jun	2010	37	9	HRF A72 A83	8 29 16	Jun Oct Aug	2010 2010 2012	 Hatch Loan to Loan to
130	F	9	Jul	2013							Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals:	2.1.0	(3)									
A84 119	М	~20	Apr	2011	44	7	A10 HRF A84	~20 ~20	Apr Apr	2011 2011 2012	 Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals:											
A91 123	М	24	Jun	2012	37	38	HRF	24	Jun	2012	 Hatch
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)									
A94 120	F	~19	Sep	2011	44	7	A10 HRF	~19 ~19	Sep Sep	2011 2011	 Hatch Ownership
Totals:	0.1.0										
A95 122	М	31	Мау	2012	74	96	A55 HRF A95	31 31 11	May May	2012 2012 2013	 Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals:											
A103 94	М	27	Aug	2007	44	7	A10 HRF A82 A92 A103	27 ~27 10 18	Aug Aug Mar Mar	2007 2007 2012 2013	 Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A103	8	Mar	2014	 Loan to
A104 7	F	24	Dec	1996	1		HRF A06 A07 A18 A31 A10 A65 A104	22 5 14 6 8 11	Nov Jul Dec May Dec Nov	1998 2000 2001	 Hatch Loan to Loan to Loan to Loan to Loan to Loan to Loan to
44	Μ	31	Oct	2002	35	36	A07 HRF A10 A65 A104	31 24 11	Oct Jul Nov	2002 2004 2012	 Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to Loan to
160	?	16	Nov	2015	44	7	A104 HRF	16 16	Nov Nov	2015 2015	 Hatch Ownership
Totals:	1.1.1	(3)									 -
A105 82	М	26	Dec	2005	25	60	A37 HRF A71 A85 A105	26 26 30 5 9	Dec Dec Aug Mar Oct	2005 2005 2010 2014 2014	 Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(\perp)									
A106 128	М	15	Jun	2012	35	36	A07 HRF A85 A106	15 15 20	Jun Jun Oct Oct	2012 2012 2012 2012 2014	 Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to
Totals:											

A109 111	М	13	Мау	2010	37	38	HRF A39 A63 A109	13 3 17	May Dec Mar	2010 2011 2014		Hatch Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					A109					Loan to
A110 14	М	22	Oct	1998	1		HRF A07 A16 A110	22	Nov	1998	III-5 	Hatch Loan to Loan to Loan to
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					AII0 					
A111 110	F	23	Mar	2010	44	7	A10 HRF A58 A10 A81 A111	23 ~23 10 22 22 3	Mar Mar Nov Jan Feb Mav	2010 2010 2011 2012 2012 2012		Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to Loan to Loan to
Totals:	0.1.0	(1)										
A112 131	M	4	Oct	2013	35	36	A10 HRF A112	4 4 12	Oct Oct Sep	2013 2013 2015		Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals: 												
Totals:	1.0.0	(1)					HRF A113					Hatch Loan to
A114												
124				2012	37	9	HRF A114	30 12	Jun Sep	2012 2015		Hatch Loan to
Totals: 												
A115 87	М						A37 A115					Hatch Transfer
89	М	18	Jan	2007	25	60	A37 A115	18 ~21	Jan Nov	2007 2015		Hatch Transfer
92	М						A37 HRF A115					Hatch Ownership Loan to
Totals: 		(3)										
AMSTERDA 77					44	7	A10 HRF A63 AMSTERDAM	13 14	Jul Aug	2006 2010		Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to
93	М	30	Jul	2007	44	7	A10 HRF A63 AMSTERDAM	30 14	Jul Aug	2007 2010		Hatch Ownership Loan to Loan to
115	?	6	Jul	2011	37	9	HRF AMSTERDAM					Hatch Loan to
117	?	12	Jun	2011	37	9	HRF	12	Jun	2011		Hatch Loan to
Totals:	1.1.2	(4)										
HRF – Ho 37						WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A25 HRF	6	Oct	2001		Capture Transfer Loan to Transfer
38	F		???	?	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF A25 HRF	3 6 6	Oct Oct Oct	2001 2001 2001	NONE	Capture Transfer Loan to Transfer

133	?	12 Jun 2014	37	9	HRF	12 Jun 2014 Hatch				
135	?	10 Jul 2014	37	9	HRF	10 Jul 2014 Hatch				
136	?	2 Sep 2014	37	9	HRF	2 Sep 2014 Hatch				
142	?	15 May 2015	37	38	HRF	15 May 2015 Hatch				
154	М	?????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF	22 Sep 2015 NONE Capture 22 Sep 2015 Transfer				
159	F	?????	WILD	WILD	SPRINGBOK HRF	22 Sep 2015 NONE Capture 22 Sep 2015 Transfer				
Totals:	2.2.4	(8)								
TOTALS: 49.23.14 (86)										

5. SPECIFIC INFORMATION FROM STUDBOOK PARTICIPANTS

The analysis of husbandry conditions at locations with captive-bred (F1) *H. signatus* breeding pairs (see Chapters 1 and 3) yielded the following compilation:

		production of eggs	and hatchlings							
	No egg proc	luction								
Location	Sexes	Enclosure (l x w x h)		Average tem	peratures (°C)	1	Temperatures measured	Basking spot	Illumination	Photoperiod
		(1 x w x li)	Sun	nmer	Wi	nter	meusureu	эрог		
			Retreat minimum	Retreat maximum	Retreat minimum	Retreat maximum				
A10 (old enclosure)	Housed together year-round	80 x 75 cm (open top)	20	± 30	18	± 24-25	Minimum temps measured 3-4 times during coldest period	Daily, but few hours during heat	Large window facing northwest	8-13 hrs, steps of 1 hr/month
A10 (new enclosure)	Housed together year-round	80 x 75 cm (open top)	25 (up to 30)	± 33	16-17	± 24-25	Minimum temps measured 3-4 times during coldest period	Daily, but few hours during heat	1 x 36 W fluorescent + 1 x 36 W Reptisun 10.0	8-13 hrs, steps of 1 hr/month
A551	Housed together year-round	115 x 85 x 70 cm	± 24	± 33	± 15	± 24	Not measured	Daily, 1 x Solar Raptor 70 W	1 x fluorescent	9.5-12 hrs
HRF	Housed together year-round	200 x 100 cm (open top)	19.7	24.8	14.1	19.3	Every 15 minutes, Siemens LOGO!	Daily, 1 x incandescent spot 25 W and daylight	Large roof windows, supplemented with 1 x 70 W CDM when daylight is low	10-14 hrs, adjusted daily via astrotimer N29°41'30"
A08					No	information rece				
A67	?	120 x 60 x 60 cm	20	37	18	25	Monthly	Daily, but switched off 2 weeks in winter and 3 weeks in summer	Not present, only basking spot	8-12 hrs
A40	Housed together year-round	90 x 90 x 50 cm	?	?	?	?	Not measured	Daily, 1 x incandescent spot 60 W and 1 x incandescent spot 80 W	Not present, only basking spots; in spring and autumn at sunset daylight	One hour difference between summer and winter
A57	Housed together year-round	90 x 60 x 60 cm	20	20	15	18	From time to time with infrared thermometer	Daily, 2 x Solar Raptor, but one switched off in winter	Solar Raptor lamps serve as illumination	10-14 hrs

¹ Poor survival of hatchlings

Annual production of eggs and hatchlings

Based on this compilation, the following findings are of importance:

- *Homopus signatus* can successfully reproduce under a range of different temperature and photoperiod regimes.
- Location A40 did not provide any significant climatic cycle. It is likely that this was a major factor explaining the lack of egg-production at this location. Location A40 has improved husbandry in 2015 (see Chapter 3).

- The lack of egg production at location A57 was less obvious, but might relate to the relatively low maximum retreat temperature in summer (e.g., resulting in little metabolic activity for vitellogenesis and spermetogenesis) or too low light intensity (illumination) away from the spotlights.
- The average maximum retreat temperature at location A67 in summer was much higher than the body temperature that *H. signatus* prefers (29-31°C) and in fact might be very close to lethal temperature. It seemed important to reduce this temperature.

Location A46

Compared to their natural habitat, *H. areolatus* enclosures in Namibia have very high temperatures. Therefore, shade cloth was installed to cover one third of the adult enclosure during the summer months. As a result, each year only 1-2 hatchlings (hatched in the enclosure) were females. Since 2011, the cloth was only used when temperatures exceeded 38°C. Consequently, more females are born (see Chapter 4). It appears that *H. areolatus* females selects nesting sites with relatively high temperatures.



Offspring born in 2012 and 2014.

Offspring born in 2013.

A problem are still soft ticks showing up from the end of October. The picture below shows an adult (female) tick on the shell of a *H. areolatus* born in 2014. We have to inspect the tortoises regularly to prevent escalation of the problem, specifically in recently hatched tortoises.



							Incubation									
Date	Time	Location	Eggs	Mass	Substrate	Days	Hrs/day	T (°C)	Hrs/day	T (°C)	RH (%)	Incubation results	Days	Animal	Mass	Remarks (sizes in mm)
08-10-2009	16:00	Indoors	1	7	Jurakies	All	12	32	12	28.5	77-82	Not developed				Egg 31.0x20.0
07-07-2010	16:30	Outdoors	2	8	Vermiculite	All	12	32	12	28	77-82	1 not developed, 1 died early				Egg 31.5x21.5, embryo
14-08-2010	16:50	Outdoors	2	9.8	Vermiculite	All	12	32	12	28	77-82	1 not developed, 1 died early				Egg 32.5x22.1+29.5x21.8, embryo
01-10-2010	15:00	Indoors	2	9	Jurakies	All	24	32.6-32.9	-	-	77-82	Not developed				Egg 32.5x22.1
05-11-2010	15:15	Indoors	1	8	Jurakies	All	24	32.9-33.3	-	-	77-82	Died late				Egg 29.8x21.8, embryo
22-08-2012	16:11	Outdoors	1	12	Jurakies	All	24	32.6-32.9	-	-	77-82	Not developed				Egg 35.0x24.5
01-11-2012	14:00	Indoors	1	9	Jurakies	All	24	32.6-32.9		-	77-82	Not developed				Egg 31.1x22.3
10-04-2013	17:00	Indoors	3	8-9.5	Vermiculite	All	12	32	12	28	77-82	1 not developed, 2 died late				Egg 31.5x23.0+31.0x23.0+30.0x22.5
14-05-2013	15:00	Indoors	2	8-8.5	Vermiculite	All	12	32	12	28	77-82	Not developed				Egg 28.0x21.5+28.0x22.0
21-06-2013	16:00	Outdoors	2	8+9	Jurakies	All	12	32.5	12	28	77-82	Not developed				Egg 30.5x22.5+29.5x21.5
01-08-2013	12:30	Outdoors	2	-	Jurakies	All	14	32.5	10	28	77-82	1 not developed, 1 died during hatching				Egg not measured (pipped D-5)
16-09-2013	13:00	Indoors	1	-	Jurakies	All	14	32.5	10	28	77-82	Not developed				Egg not measured, egg small and round
19-10-2013	19:00	Indoors	2	8 + 10	Jurakies	All	14	32.5	10	28	77-82	Not developed				Egg not measured
18-11-2013	16:00	Indoors	1	9	Jurakies	All	14	32.5	10	28	77-82	Not developed				Egg not measured
08-12-2013	16:00	Indoors	1	9	Jurakies	All	14	33	10	28.5	77-82	Hatched, 26-03-2014	108	1	6	Egg not measured, hatchling 30.0x28.8x17.0
05-05-2014	17:00	Indoors	2	10	Jurakies	All	14	33	10	28.5	77-82	1 not developed, 1 died early				Egg 31.0x23.0, embryo
05-06-2014	16:00	Indoors	2	10	Jurakies	All	14	33	10	28.5	77-82	1 not developed, 1 died during hatching				Egg 31.0x23.0+29.6x24.0 (egg entirely opened)
10-07-2014	16:00	Indoors	2	8+9	Jurakies	77	14	33	10	28.5	77-82	Died early				Egg 29.9x22.8+27.6x22.5, embryo
						Rest	14	31.5	10	28	77-82	Died half-way				
09-08-2014	17:00	Outdoors	2	9+9	Jurakies	50	14	33	10	28.5	77-82	Hatched, 15-11-2014		1	8	Egg not measured, hatchling 31.4x30.2x16.3
						Rest	14	31.5	10	28	77-82	Hatched, 18-11-2014	102	1	6.2	Egg not measured, hatchling 29.7x29.1x16.2
14-10-2014	16:00	Indoors	3	9+11	Jurakies	67	14	32.5-33	10	28	77-82	2 not developed				Egg 30.5x23.1+28.3x23.4, fertile egg 32.7x24.1
						Rest	14	31	10	28	77-82	Hatched, 07-02-2015	Hatched, 07-02-2015 117 1 5 Limb d		Limb deformed (turned 180°) and many scute anomalies, euthanised by vet on 27-02-2015	

Location A66

A detailed report is presented in Appendix 1. In addition, reproductive data are as following:

Location A77

Both H. areolatus kept at location A77 hatched in Namibia in February 2008. In June 2011, the tortoises were transferred to location A77. Location A77 is experienced keeping and breeding various turtle genera over a period of more than 40 years. In winter, *H. areolatus* is kept in a terrarium in a Wintergarten. Temperatures vary with weather conditions, from 6-8°C during severe frost to 30°C on sunny days. The tortoises are well capable to deal with such temperatures, because they will occur in the wild too. Both H. areolatus are mature and have been raised without any problems. Although the terrarium is placed in a Wintergarten, the tortoises respond to weather conditions outdoors. There is little activity during clouded weather and the tortoises become active in sun.

The tortoises are fed with dandelion, chickweed, flowers and herbs. In winter, they also receive lambs lettuce, Chinese cabbage, parsley, dried herbs and hay. Therefore, it is easy to cater for them. It is interesting to note that *H. areolatus* uses its sense of smell to find food. Every 3-4 weeks, a small piece of dog food is hidden in the enclosure, after which the tortoise start to search for it immediately and readily find it. They appear to like to eat dog food.

In the enclosure, there are two Bright sun lamps and 30 Watt fluorescent tubes, as well as an ultrasound humidifier. The humidifier runs three times daily. Tortoises are soaked once weekly. In winter, the terrarium is closed with glass panes. In summer, the tortoises are transferred to an outdoor enclosure. Similar to the indoor enclosure, the outdoor enclosure is divided in two compartments to house the two males separately. This is important, or the males would attack and bite one another. Despite the fact that the males cannot be housed together, their husbandry and observing them is very enjoyable. Die beiden Areolen Flachschildkröten sind in Namibia im Februar 2008 geschlüpft. Im Juni 2011 habe ich die Tiere erhalten. Erfahrungen über Haltung und Nachzuchten von Schildkröten verschiedener Gattungen liegen seit mehr als 40 Jahren vor.

Die Haltung der Tiere erfolgt im Winter in einem Terrarium, welches sich in einem Wintergarten befindet. In dem Wintergarten stellen sich schwankende Temperaturen ein, je nach Wetterlage können die Temperaturen bei starken Frost bis auf 6-8°C in der Nacht absinken bei sonnigem Wetter tagsüber aber auch bis auf 30°C ansteigen. Diese Temperaturschwankungen werden von den Tieren gut vertragen, da sicherlich auch in der Natur entsprechende Temperaturschwankungen auftreten. Die Tiere sind jetzt ausgewachsen und haben sich sehr gut entwickelt, es gibt keine Probleme bei der Haltung. Obwohl sich das Terrarium in einem Wintergarten befindet reagieren sie auf das Außenwetter. Bei bedecktem Himmel verstecken sie sich und bei Sonne kommen sie hervor. Zum Fressen erhalten sie Löwenzahn, Vogelmiere, Blüten, Wiesenpflanzen im Winter auch Ackersalat, Chinakohl, Petersilie, getrocknete Kräuter, Heu. Es ist also nicht schwierig die Schildkröten mit entsprechender Nahrung zu versorgen. Interessant ist dass sie sehr gut riechen. Dies zeigt sich wenn ich ihnen alle 3-4 Wochen ein kleines Stückchen Hundetrockenfutter im Terrarium verstecke, sofort suchen sie danach und finden es auf Anhieb. Offensichtlich schmeckt es ihnen sehr gut. Das Terrarium ist mit 2 Bright sun Lampen und 30 Watt Neonröhren, sowie einem Ultraschall Luftbefeuchter ausgestattet, dieser läuft 3xmal am Tag. Einmal in der Woche bade ich die Tiere. Im Winter wird das Terrarium mit Glasscheiben abgedeckt in der Übergangszeit bleibt es offen.

Im Sommer befinden sich die Schildkröten in einem Freiluftgehege. Da es sich um 2 männl. Tiere handelt mussten wir sowohl das Terrarium wie auch das Freilandgehege durch eine Zwischenwand abtrennen. Das ist zwar schade, lässt sich aber nicht vermeiden, da sie sonst aufeinander losgehen und sich ineinander verbeißen. Trotzdem macht die Haltung und Beobachtung der beiden *H. areolatus* viel Spaß.



Location A91

One male *H. signatus* is kept in the enclosure below.



Location A104

A first hatchling *H. signatus* was born on 16 November. The body size of the hatchling was incredibly large compared to the size of the egg. It took several days for the hatchling to hatch, after which it was placed on a wet tissue and returned to the incubator for 24 hours. After that, it



was placed in a small enclosure. The hatchling is feeding well and drinks during its weekly soaking. It is active and appears very curious.

Location A109

After studying the past annual reports of the Homopus Research Foundation and book (i.e., "A Guide to the Tortoises of Namibia" and the "Tortoises Terrapins and Turtles of Africa", I keep my *H. signatus* male in an outdoor enclosure in the summer months. This appears to work well.



Location A110

I kept my *H. signatus* male outdoors in Portugal for about three months, on a balcony facing East. Although air temperatures were pretty high, the tortoise hid most of the time. It kept eating, but after moving the tortoise back indoors, it started to eat more and was more active. Body mass increased only a

few grams outdoors, but the tortoise became heavier after moving it indoors. It seems that outdoor enclosures for *H*. *signatus* in Portugal would need to be exposed to sun throughout the day. In that case, outdoor husbandry might be successful in late spring and summer. However, the stress from seasonally moving *H. signatus* from one enclosure to another maybe unacceptable.

The decoration of the indoor enclosure was improved based



on field experience in the natural habitat of *H. signatus*.

Location HRF

The focus in 2015 was on the acclimation of two new founders (see Paragraph 1.1) and on well-controlled incubation of eggs. Thermometers were calibrated to assure that incubation temperatures were accurate. Thermometer calibration is a service that is offered by many companies (simply Google "thermometer calibration service") and costs around 30-40 euro. It is strongly advised that studbook participants have thermometers calibrated that are used in incubators. Incubation conditions were as reported in the <u>2014 annual report</u>, but it will take another two years until the gender of the hatchlings may be reliably determined.

To increase insight in the thermal conditions in tortoise enclosures, a FLIR C2 thermal camera was acquired and tested. It presents full temperature ranges and underlying digital photos in one image, and is



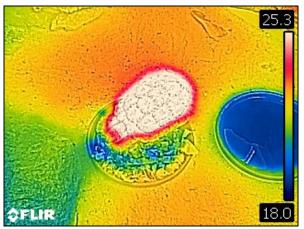
usable for tortoise enclosures as well as electrical installations controlling enclosure climates (see 2012 annual report).



Switchboard for climate control



Open Homopus enclosure early November at noon



Homopus signatus feeding after heating up

6. New publications

The following overview summarises all manuscripts and articles that were submitted, accepted, published, or under review in 2015.

Subject	Submitted	Accepted	Published	Journal
Small home ranges in the Namaqualand	2013	2014	2015	Journal of Herpetology (English)
speckled tortoise, Homopus signatus, in spring				
Twenty years of husbandry and breeding of the speckled tortoise (<i>Homopus signatus</i>) in a studbook: accomplishments and challenges for the future	2015	2015	2015	The Batagur (English)
Wide variation in carapacial scute patterns in a natural population of speckled tortoises, <i>Homopus signatus</i>	2015			African Journal of Herpetology (English)

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Most materials required for the *H. signatus* thermoregulation study (see Paragraph 1.3) were purchased in 2012, resulting in little expenses in 2015. Expenses for the collection and export of 5.5 new founders *H. signatus* were covered by the five studbook participants where the couples were housed. The transport of veterinary samples from the new founders was covered by the Homopus Research Foundation. A significant donation was received from studbook participant Martijn Kooijman.

There is a small surplus of funds that will be used in upcoming projects.

Revenues		Expenses	
Net amount	ltem	Amount	Item
€		€	
Project H. sign	natus 2012-2015	Project H. s	ignatus 2012-2015
389	Remaining funds 2014	65	Various research materials
200	Donations private individuals		
589	Subtotal	65	Subtotal
Collecting and	I avanting E E foundary II airmatus	Collocting	and everyting E E feyndary II eignetus
Collecting and	l exporting 5.5 founders H. signatus	Collecting a	and exporting 5.5 founders H. signatus
1,013	Donations 5 receiving locations	128	Permits
		129	Transport
		651	Clearance
		48	Materials
		56	Various
1,013	Subtotal	1,011	Subtotal
Other		Other	
95	Donation V. Loehr to cover costs bank account	95	Annual costs bank accounts
0	Interest bank account	185	Transport veterinary samples founders to Italy
		340	Reservation expenses 2016
95	Subtotal	621	Subtotal
1,697	Total	1,697	Total

8. PERMIT OVERVIEW

The activities reported in this document would not have been possible without the following permits issued by the South African and Namibian authorities:

Exporting of H. areolatus

- Exporting permit 49683 (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia)
- CITES exporting permit 8830 (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia)
- CITES exporting permit 3558 (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, South Africa)
- Health certificate 13\1\4\2\ 09/2- 1676/04 (Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, Namibia)
- Various additional permits issued to individual studbook participants (Namibia)

Collecting and exporting of H. femoralis

- Collecting permit AAA004-00010-0035 (CapeNature, South Africa)
- CITES exporting permit 58679 (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa)
- Health declaration dated 17-03-06 (Department of Agriculture, South Africa)

Collecting and exporting of H. signatus

- Collecting permit 331/95 (Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, South Africa)
- Collecting permit 28/2001 (Northern Cape Nature Conservation, South Africa)
- Collecting permit 053/2015 (Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation)
- CITES exporting permits 16579 and 281/95C (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa)
- CITES exporting permit 148487 (Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation)
- Permit to move animals/animal products 2001/10/3/A (Department of Agriculture, South Africa)

Field study on H. boulengeri

• Research permits 755/05, 43/2005 and 35/2005 (Northern Cape Nature Conservation, South Africa)

Field study on H. femoralis

- Research permit AAA-004-000185-0035
- Research permit AAA-004-00020-0028
- Research permit AAA-004-000392-0035
- Research permit AAA-004-00027-0028

Field studies on H. signatus and H. s. cafer

- Research permits 137/99, 84/99, 019/2001, 010/2001, 46/2003, 26/2003, 8/2003, 168/2003, 43/2003, 158/2003, 633/2003, 25/2003, 158/2004 and 633/2004 (Northern Cape Nature Conservation, South Africa)
- Research permits 428/2002 and 41/2002 (Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, South Africa)
- Research permits 152/2012 and 153/2012, 460/2013 and 052/2015 (Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, South Africa)

Appendix 1

Detailed *H. areolatus* husbandry information from location A66 (Marcel and Lydia Reck).

Haltungsbericht Homopus areolatus location A66

April bis Juni 2015

Am 13. April 2015 holte unser Sohn mit seiner Frau die Tiere bei location A54 ab. Der Zoll ging reibungslos und die Tiere kamen gut bei uns an.

Innenterrarium:

Das Terrarium vom separat gehaltenen Männchen Nr. 79, nach Weisung des Studbook sieht wie folgt aus:



Das Weibchen Nr. 81 geniesst alleine ein grösseres Gehege:



Die Tiere haben sich gut eingelebt bei uns, es gab keine Probleme. Das Verhalten war ruhig, gefressen haben sie nicht regelmässig, im Monat Juni machten sie eine Ruhepause, beide Tier haben je 10g an Gewicht abgenommen. Die Beurteilung ist allgemein schwierig, da wir die Tiere noch nicht so gut kennen. Wichtig ist eine stetige Kontrolle.

Die Einrichtung sieht wie folgt aus:

Pflanzen und Höhlen, damit sie sich gut verstecken können. Bodengrund roter Namibiasand mit Lehmanteil, da Grabfähig.

Beim Weibchen im grösseren Terri eine Silvania FL T5/865 Daylight als Tageslicht, eine X-Reptile und eine Ultra-Vitalux Lampe. **Beim Männchen** im kleineren Terri ohne Ultra-Vitalux. Man beachte, dass bei uns die Terri's alle oben und vorne offen sind, damit kein Hitzestau entsteht. Der UV- Anteil und die Lux-Werte muss man unbedingt messen können, zur genauen Einstellung der Lampen.

Aussenterrarium:

Am 3. Juni 2015 bei wunderbar warmem Wetter wurden die Tiere ins Aussenterrarium, ebenfalls getrennt, platziert.

Die Einrichtung sieht folgender Massen aus, damit in kälteren Tagen die Tiere sich aufwärmen können, ist in beiden Terrarien je ein 150 Watt Baustrahler montiert. Ein Teil der Terrarien im Lampenbereich sind zusätzlich mit einer Glasscheibe gedeckt, damit die Tiere auswählen können, ob sie im Trocken- oder im Nassbereich sich aufhalten möchten. Ueber die ganzen Gehege ist ein selbsttragendes Drahtgeflecht montiert. Als allgemeinen Wetterschutz noch eine Noppenfolie, damit das Gehege individuell abgedeckt werden kann. Noppenfolie 1-fach lässt 75% UV durch. Bodengrund, Pflanzen und Versteck Möglichkeiten wie im Innenterrarium. Mit dieser Technik arbeiten wir über 6 Jahre, seit wir afrikanische Landschildkröten halten. Haben auch schon mehrmals im Detail darüber geschrieben.



Weibchen Nr. 81



Am 14. Juni 2015 staunten wir nicht schlecht, das Weibchen fing unter den wilden Erdbeeren an zu graben und dies schon 8 Wochen nach dem Umzug zu uns. Vorsichtig wurden zwei Eier ausgegraben.



Da wir 3 Jahre nicht brüten dürfen, bewahren wir sie als Beweis im Kühlschrank bei 6°C auf.



Diese 2 Tiere machen uns sehr viel Freude auch wenn sie leider getrennt leben müssen. Wir haben einen gewissen Stolz, dass das Weibchen bereits Eier legte. Vielleicht haben wir bald das Glück, fremdes Blut zu erhalten.

Haltungsbericht Homopus areolatus location A66

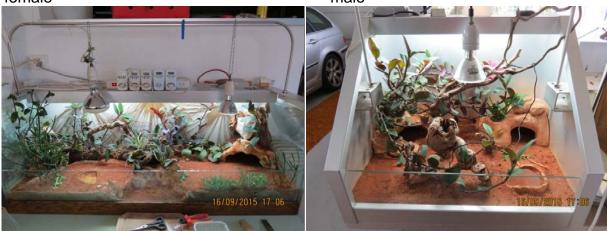
Juli bis Dezember 2015

Im Juli verhielten sich die Tiere aktiv bei dem schönen Wetter. Das Highlight kam am 7. August, da legte das Weibchen wieder 2 Eier (2.Gelege) fast hätten wir es nicht bemerkt, bei einer Kontrolle bewegten sich die wilden Erdbeerenblätter in regelmässigen Abständen. Beim genauen Hinschauen, sahen wir sie schon bei Decken der Eigrube. Sie wählte dieses Mal einen Platz im Halbschatten, aber in der Nähe der Aluminiumumrandung, die als guten Wärmleiter die Wärme sehr gut in den Boden abgibt und speichert.

Nun befinden sich auch diese zwei Eier im Kühlschrank, eigentlich tut es sehr weh, wenn man bedenkt, dass es nichts geben darf.



Anfangs September, bevor wir ein paar Tage verreisten, zogen die Tiere in ihr Winterquartier,(natürlich wie immer getrennt), da es für die Betreuung und Fütterung der Tiere durch unsere Ferienablösung einfacher war. female male



Die Tiere lebten sich wieder schnell ein wir merkten keinen Stress. Die Einrichtung wurde von beiden Tieren erkundet und gut wieder angenommen.



Am 26. September 2015 hob sie die dritte Eigrube aus, legte erneut 2 Eier in den neu warm befeuchteten Bodengrund mit 32°C, die sie wie immer behutsam platzierte und wie gewohnt schön und sauber zudeckte.





Nun sind schon 6 Eier von 2015 von diesem female Nr. 81 im Kühlschrank zur Aufbewahrung.

Falls es nochmals Eier legt bis Ende Jahr, werden wir dies Nachliefern!

Das erste Paar mit female Nr. 77 das von Oktober 2009 bis Ende 2014 bei uns war, legte in dieser Zeit 35 Eier.

Unser Fazit: wir halten dieses neue Paar wie das vorherige und glauben, dass wir es soweit Richtig machen mit der allgemeinen Pflege, Haltung und Fütterung. Über unsere technische Einrichtung hatten wir ja schon mehrmals geschrieben (z.B. Marginata).

Für irgendwelche Vorschläge oder Verbesserungen sind wir aber immer offen.