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African Bat Conservation News

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Inside this issue:

Download sites for ABCN:

http://www.nfi.org.za/mammal/abcn/ABCN.htm

http://flyingfur.typepad.com/abcn/abcn.html

Above: Female Cape serotine bat, *Neoromicia capensis* (A. Smith, 1829), with pup, from a roost in a farm house attic, on farm Rietvalley 76, portion 26, Western Cape, South Africa (33.53368°S 22.54246°E), 29 November 2005.

Notes from the Editor

At the start of another year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported African Bat Conservation News in 2005; the editorial board for their support and guidance, Valerie Craig for hosting African Bat Conservation News on the Flying Fur website, all contributors, and readers.

Steve Goodman and Teresa Kearney have agreed to join the editorial board for 2006. Steve Goodman (Chicago Field Museum of Natural History), has most recently worked on numerous projects on Malagasy bats, and Teresa Kearney's (Transvaal Museum) interest is taxonomy of southern African bat species. The full list of people on the editorial board is on page 7, which includes seven other people who have agreed to continue serving in 2006.

Please send me your thoughts on, or contributions to, the following new themes which have been suggested for the newsletter:

People, Species, Specimens and Places – This section is envisaged to document short notes of interest on past and present collectors, and the history of species descriptions. It may document photographically type localities as they occur now, and other localities where more recent surveys have taken place. It may also be used to include additional information which was not included in other publications (e.g. voucher numbers, or photographs of a survey area and specimens captured), or new information relating to previous publications (i.e. changes in taxonomy or mis- identifications) .

Bats in Protected Areas – The aim of this section would be to document what is currently know about bats in protected areas in Africa, based on the World Database on Protected Areas (see ABCN 5: 4-6). Over time different contributions to this section could be used to build a larger picture about the status of bats in protected areas in Africa, and be used to identify gaps for further assessment and conservation. Contributions may collated all information; published and unpublished (i.e. unpublished museum specimens, survey records and call data) on bats recorded from a particular protected area. The contribution may also assess the validity of a species list for a protected area based on differences in the information informing of the species presence in an area i.e. how accurate is the locality information, is there a voucher that was accurately identified, if the record was made many years ago is the species still found in the area? - **Ernest C.J. Seamark**

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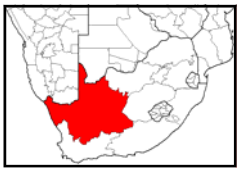
SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

African Bat Conservation News publishes brief notes concerning the biology of bats, new geographical distributions (preferably at least 100 km from the nearest previously published record), sparsely annotated species lists resulting from local surveys including roost counts and echolocation and sonograms of bat species occurring on the African continent and adjacent regions, including the Arabian peninsula, Madagascar, and other surrounding islands in the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

NEW DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANGOLAN WING-GLAND BAT (*CISTUGO SEABRAE* THOMAS, 1912)



By: Ernest C.J. Seamark and **Teresa C. Kearney**, Vertebrate Department, Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa (tehome@mweb.co.za or kearney@nfi.co.za).

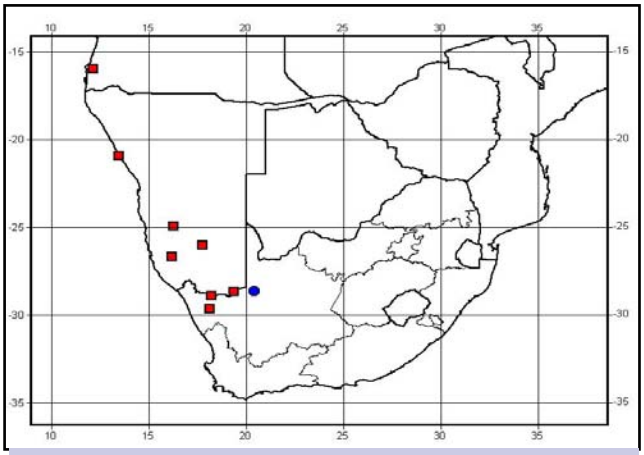


Figure 1: ■ indicates the previously known localities of *Cistugo seabrae* in southern Africa after THOMAS, (1912); THOMAS and HINTON, (1925); SHORTRIDGE, (1934; 1942); HERSELMAN and NORTON, (1985); RAUTENBACH *et al*., (1993); Amathola Museum and Transvaal Museum collections'. While ● indicates the new locality, 20.5 km NW Kakamas, Farm: Northern Kakamas, Khamkirri, on road behind cottages (28°39'S, 20°26'E).

The Angolan wing-gland bat (*Cistugo seabrae* Thomas, 1912) has been recorded from eight localities throughout its distribution in south-western Africa (see Figure 1)- Angola: Namibe (syn. Mossamedes, Mossamedes, Mocamedes) (*ca*. 15°56'S 12°09'E) (THOMAS, 1912); Namibia: 3 km W Aus, Farm: Klein Aus 8 (26°39'S 16°13'E): TM37541- 37544, TM37549, TM37550, TM37561- 37563; Haub River mouth (20°54'S 13°28'E): TM31277 (RAUTENBACH *et al*., 1993; Transvaal Museum collections); 70 km W Maltahöhe, Farm: Zwartmodder 101 (24°54'S 16°17'E): TM37587, TM37610 - 37613 (Transvaal Museum collections); Berseba (25°59'S 17°47'E) (THOMAS and HINTON, 1925); South Africa: Goegab (*ca.* 29°38'S 18°08'E); Farm: Steyerskraal (*ca.* 28°38'S 19°23'E); Goodhouse (*ca*. 28°54'S 18°15'E): KM1882- 1889 (SHORTRIDGE, 1934; 1942; HERSELMAN and NORTON, 1985; Amathola Museum collection).

A harp trap was set in a road (Figure 2a-b) behind cottages at Khamkirri on the farm Northern Kakamas, 20.5km north-west of the town Kakamas, Northern Cape Province, South Africa (28°39'S, 20°26'E) on the 10th February 2005. The capture site was situated within riverine vegetation along the banks of the Orange River (Figure 3). The Orange River creates an unusual green vein in an otherwise harsh, dry environment that is classified as Nama Karoo (RUTHERFORD and WESTFALL, 1994).

A female and two male *Cistugo seabrae* were caught in the harp trap together with a male Cape serotine bat, *Neoromica capensis* (A.

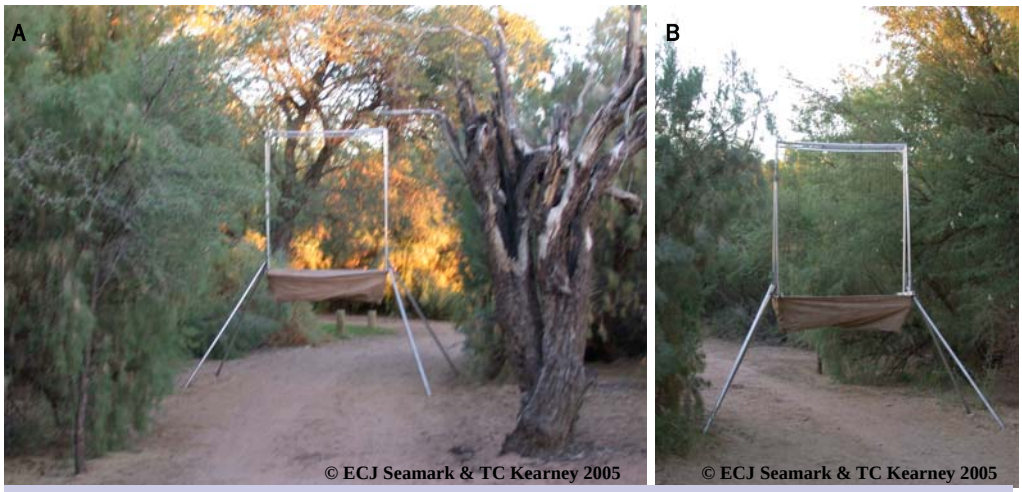


Figure 2a & 2b: Harp trap set on road behind cottages at Khamkirri. A) View NW. B) View SE.

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Figure 3: View south-west from the top of a low rocky outcrop across the Orange River to the town of Augrabies. The riverine vegetation along the Orange river extends for about 50-100m on either side of the river. Yellow arrow indicates position of the harp trap on the road behind the cottages at Khamkirri.

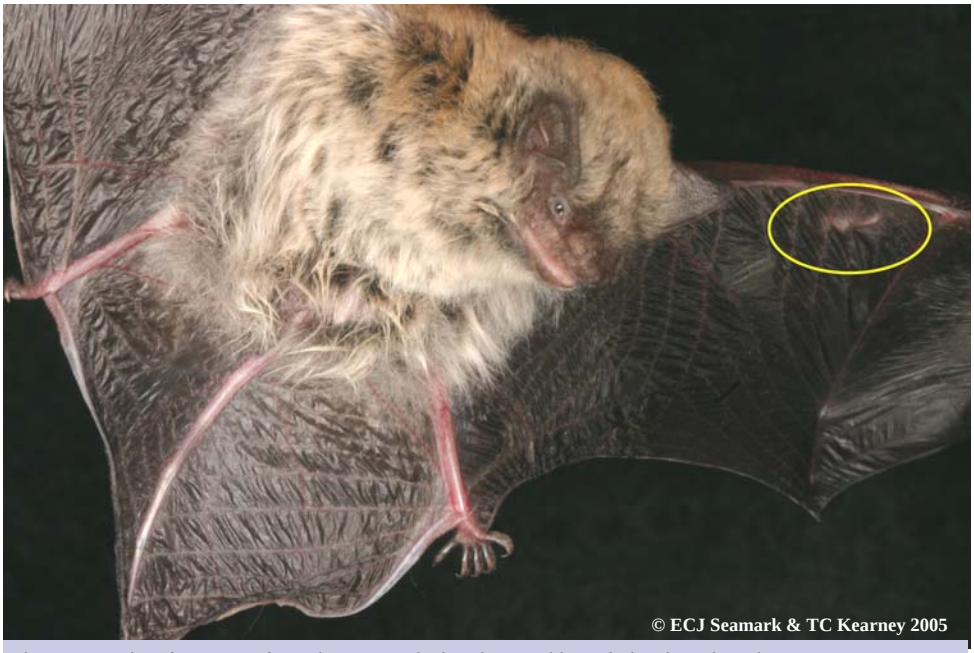

Figure 4: Male *Cistugo seabrae* (TM 47582) showing position of gland on the wing.

Figure 5: Wing of *Cistugo seabrae* (TM 47582) showing closer view of gland.

Table 1: Sex, reproductive condition, field measurements of weight (Mass), forearm length (FA), head length (HL: measurement taken from the back of the head to the tip of the nose), and tibia length (Tib), and museum accession (TM = Transvaal Museum, Pretoria) and field numbers of individuals of *Cistugo seabrae* (*C.s.*) and *Neoromicia capensis* (*N.c.*) caught at Khamkirri.

Species	Museum accession	Field #	Sex	Reproductive condition	Mass (g)	FA (mm)	HL (mm)	Tib (mm)
C.s	TM 47581	ECJS-01/10/02/2005	M	Sub-adult	3.10	30.9	13.5	12.5
C.s	TM 47582	ECJS-02/10/02/2005	M	Testes partly descended	3.85	32.0	14.4	12.5
C.s	TM 47584	ECJS-04/10/02/2005	F	-	3.00	31.5	12.0	12.2
N.c	TM 47583	ECJS-03/10/02/2005	M	Testes partly descended	5.80	35.2	16.6	12.4

Smith, 1829). Table 1 indicates the reproductive condition, external field measurements, museum accession and field numbers of the four individuals caught. In the field *Cistugo* Thomas, 1912 may be overlooked if confused with other vesper bats (SEAMARK and BRAND, 2005). The genus *Cistugo* has gland(s) on the wing between the forearm and the 5th metacarpal, which other than the yellow colour could be mistaken for old scar tissue. *Cistugo* also has six upper and lower cheekteeth, however the upper premolars are tiny and may be missed if viewed without magnification. All three individuals identified as *Cistugo seabrae* had glands on their wings (Figure 4-5) and six upper and lower cheekteeth. These individuals were identified as *C. seabrae* following MEESTER *et al*., (1986) as their forearm lengths were smaller than the forearm length of 34.5mm or more for *C. lesueuri* Roberts 1919 (Table 1). Their forearm lengths were however, smaller than the range for *C. seabrae* in MEESTER *et al*., (1986).

These records of *Cistugo seabrae* extend the known distribution of the species 216km east from Goodhouse (SHORTRIDGE, 1942).

Acknowledgements

To Northern Cape Nature Conservation for granting a permit the undertake the above work (Permit No. 0010/05).

References

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MEESTER, J.A.J., RAUTENBACH, I.L., DIPPENAAR, N.J. and BAKER, C.M., 1986. *Classification of Southern African Mammals*. Transvaal Museum Monograph, Pretoria.

RAUTENBACH, I.L., BRONNER, G.N. and SCHLITTER, D.A., 1993. Karyotypic data and attendant systematic implications for the bats of southern Africa. *Koedoe* **36**: 87-104.

RUTHERFORD, M.C. and WESTFALL, R.H., 1994. Biomes of Southern Africa: an objective categorization. *Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa* **63**: 1-94.

SEAMARK, E.C.J. and BRAND, M., 2005. Bat survey in the Cederberg Wilderness Area, Western Cape, South Africa (28 January - 3 Febuary 1999). *African Bat Conservation News* **3**: 7-9.

SHORTRIDGE, G.C., 1942. Field notes on the first and second expeditions of the Cape Museum's Mammal Survey of the Cape Province; and descriptions of some new subgenera and subspecies. *Annals of the South African Museum* **36**: 27-100.

SHORTRIDGE, G.C., 1934. *The Mammals of South West Africa*. William Heinemann Ltd, London.

THOMAS, O., 1912. A new Vespertilionine bat from Angola. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* **(8) 10**: 204-206.

THOMAS, O. and HINTON, M.A.C., 1925. On mammals collected in 1923 by Captain G.C. Shortridge during the Percy Sladen and Kaffrarian Museum Expedition to South-West Africa. With field notes by the collector. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society London* **1925**: 221-246.

RECENT LITERATURE

CONFERENCE PRESENATIONS

Presentations at the 10th European Bat Research Symposium

National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, 22-26 August 2005

IS COLURA SEYCHELLENSIS STILL THE RAREST BAT IN THE WORLD?
Laura Bambini, Andrew Blyth, Tim Bradford, Rachel Bristol, Sarah Burthe, Louise Craig, Nick Downs, Sinclair Laing, Lorraine Marshall-Ball, Denise McGowan, Terence Vel, and Paul A. Racey

APPLYING GENETIC METHODOLOGIES TO PROBLEMATIC CONSERVATION QUESTIONS: FRUIT BATS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN
John O'Brien and Tom Hayden

PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF RHINOPOMATIDAE
Pavel Hulva, Petr Benda, and Ivan Horacek

Presentations at the 35th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research

Sacromento, California, USA, 19-22 October 2005

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT AND SKELETOGENESIS IN THE ANGOLA FREE-TAILED BAT (*TADARIDA CONDYLURA*)
Karl A. Wyant and Rick A. Adams, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO

PLATFORM PRESENTATIONS

THE EFFECT OF TOURIST VISITS ON BEHAVIOR OF *ROUSETTUS MADAGASCARIENSIS* IN THE CAVES OF ANKARANA, NORTHERN MADAGASCAR
Scott G. Cardiff, Fanja H. Ratrimomanarivo, and Steven M. Goodman, Columbia University and American Museum of

Natural History, New York, NY; WWF, Antananarivo and Université díAntananarivo, Madagascar; Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL

DISTINGUISHING MEGACHIROPTERAN SPECIES USING MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN KASANKA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA
Heidi V. Richter and Graeme S. Cumming, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

PHYLOGENY AND EVOLUTION OF AFRICAN MEGABATS
Nancy B. Simmons, Norberto P. Giannini, Francisca Cunha Almeida, Natalee Stephens, and Rob DeSalle, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

FORAGING BEHAVIOR OF EGYPTIAN FRUIT BATS (*ROUSETTUS AEGYPTIACUS*) IN CAPE TOWN: HOW IMPORTANT ARE FIGS?
Robert M. R. Barclay and David S. Jacobs, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB; University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

FORAGING MOVEMENTS AND DAY ROOST SELECTION OF FEMALE EPAULETTED FRUIT BATS IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA
Christopher Todd, Frank Bonaccorso, John Winkelmann, Brian Musetti, and Jay Miller, U.S. Geological Survey, Hawaii National Park, HI; Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA

ANOTHER WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN BAT CLOSE TO EXTINCTION: IS *COLEURA SEYCHELLENSIS* STILL THE RAREST BAT IN THE WORLD?
Laura Bambini, Andrew Blyth, Tim Bradford, Rachel Bristol, Sarah Burthe, Louise Craig, Nick Downs, Sinclair Laing, Lorraine Marshall-Ball, Denise McGowan, Terence Vel, and Paul Racey, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK; University of Liverpool, Leahurst, Wirral, UK; University of St. Andrews, Fife, UK; Cresswell Associates Ltd., Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire, UK; Nature Seychelles, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

PUBLISHED PAPERS

ANONYMOUS, 2005. *Vespertilio nanus* Peters, 1852 (currently *Pipistrellus nanus*; Mammalia, Chiroptera): specific name given precedence over *Vespertilio pipistrellus africanus* Rüppell, 1842. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 62(2): 120-121.
The Commission has ruled that the specific name of *Pipistrellus nanus* (Peters, 1852) for the African Banana bat (family Vespertilionidae) is conserved by giving it precedence over the senior subjective synonym *Pipistrellus africanus* (Rüppell, 1842).

BORCHERT, M., MULANGU, S., SWANEPOEL, R., TSHOMBA, A., AFOUNDE, A., KULIDRI, A., MUYEMBE-TAMFUM, J.-J. and VAN DER STUYFT, P., 2005. Pygmy populations seronegative for Marburg virus. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 11(1): 174-177.

KOHAR, G. and EL GARHY, M. 2005. Ultrastructural study on the trichostrongylid nematode *Spinostrongylus spinosus* from bats in Egypt. *Journal of the Egyptian German Society of Zoology* 47(D): 59-66.
Ultrastructural study was done for the first time on the nematode *Spinostrongylus spinosus* (Trichostrongylidae) recovered from the intestine of 3 bat species caught from Abu Rawash (Giza) and Fayoum, *Rhinopoma hardwickei* (lesser-rat tailed bat), *Taphozous perforatus* (tomb bat) and *Taphozous nudiventris* (naked-bellied bat). The present study aims to complement our knowledge about this species, reporting additional morphological characteristics that were not demonstrated in previous works utilizing only light microscopy. It doubtless provides a useful tool in the taxonomy of this nematode.

LOUETTE, M., 2004: Mammifères,: 65-87. In: LOUETTE, M., MEIRTE, D. & JOQUÉ, R. (Eds.): La faune terrestre de l'archipel des Comores. Studies in Afrotropical Zoology 293: 1-456.
Biology, records and status of *Pteropus seychellensis comorensis*, *Pteropus livingstonii*, *Rousettus obliviosus*, *Myotis goudoti anjouanensis*, *Miniopterus mionor grivaudi*, *Taphozous mauritianus*: (1st record Comoro Archipelago), *Chaerephon pumila*. Also: *Eidolon helvum* bathing in swimming pool, Mauritania.

PADIAL, J. M. and IBÁNEZ, C., 2005. New records and comments for the Mauritanian mammal fauna. *Mammalia* 69(2): 239-243.
Eptesicus floweri, *Pipistrellus rueppellii*, *Hipposideros caffer*.

PETERSON, A. T., BAUER, J. T. and MILLS, J. N., 2004a. Ecologic and geographic distribution of filovirus disease. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 10(1): 40-47.

We used ecologic niche modeling of outbreaks and sporadic cases of filovirus-associated hemorrhagic fever (HF) to provide a large-scale perspective on the geographic and ecologic distributions of Ebola and Marburg viruses. We predicted that filovirus would occur across the Afrotropics: Ebola HF in the humid rain forests of central and western Africa, and Marburg HF in the drier and more open areas of central and eastern Africa. Most of the predicted geographic extent of Ebola HF appear to have been observed; Marburg HF has the potential to occur farther south and east. Ecologic conditions appropriate for Ebola HF are also present in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, where Ebola Reston is hypothesized to be distributed. This first large-scale ecologic analysis provides a framework for a more informed search for taxa that could constitute the natural reservoir for this virus family.

POURRUT, X., KUMULUNGUI, B., WITTMANN, T., MOUSSAVOU, G., DÉLICAT, A., YABA, P., NKOGHE, D., GONZALEZ, J.-P. and LEROY, E. M., 2005. The natural history of Ebola virus in Africa. *Microbes and Infection* 7(7-8): 1005-1014.

Several countries spanning the equatorial forest regions of Africa have had outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever over the last three decades. This article is an overview of the many published investigations of how Ebola virus circulates in its natural environment, focusing on the viral reservoir, susceptible animal species, environmental conditions favouring inter-species transmission, and how the infection is transmitted to humans. Major breakthroughs have been made in recent years but many outstanding questions must be dealt with if we are to prevent human outbreaks by interfering with the viral life cycle.

STANLEY, W.T., NIKUNDIWE, A.M., MTURI, F.A., M. KIHAULE, P.M. and MOEHLMAN, P.D., 2005a: Small mammals collected in Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Tanzania. *Journal of East African Natural History* 94(1): 203-212.

Natural history notes on *Rousettus aegyptiacus -- Rousettus angolensis -- Myonycteris relicta -- Nycteris hispida -- Rhinolophus deckeni - Hipposideros cyclops -- Eptesicus capensis.*

STANLEY, W.T., GUNN, J. and KIHAULE, P.M., 2005b: Results of a prelimínary small mammal survey of Malundwe Mountain, Mikumi National Park, Tanzania. *Journal of East African Natural History* 94(1): 213-222.

Natural history notes on *Rhinolophus deckeni* and *Rhinolophus swinnyi*.

STANLEY, W.T., ROGERS, M.A., HOWELL, K.M. and MSUYA, C.A., 2005c: Results of a survey of small mammals in the Kwamgumi Forest Reserve, East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania. *Journal of East African Natural History* 94(1): 223-230.

Natural history notes on *Nycteriis thebaica -- Rhinolophus deckeni -- Rhinolophus fumigatus -- Rhinolophus hildebrandti -- Hipposideros cyclops*.

SYLLA, M., POURRUT, X., FAYE, N., BA, K., CORNET, J.-P. and CAMICAS, J.-L., 2004. Argasidae (Acari: Ixodida) parasites of wild and domestic animals in Senegal: I - Review and distribution. *Acarologia* 44(3-4): 137-149.

A list of argasid ticks occurring in Senegal is given. It includes 11 recognized species (six Argasinae and five Ornithodorinae). *Argas* (*A*.) *hermanni*, *A*. (*Persicargas*) *persicus* and *Argas* (*P*.) near *walkerae* were collected from domestic poultry. *A*. (*P*.) *arboreus* and *A*. (*P*.) *streptopelia* were recorded respectively from egrets and wild doves in different ecological areas in Senegal. *Carios* (*C*.) *vespertilionis* was found associated with insectivorous bats of the genera *Tadarida*, *Taphozous*, *Scotoecus*, *Scotophilus* and *Pipistrellus*. *A*. (*Reticulinasus*) *camicasi* were recorded infesting fruit-eating bats of the genus *Rousettus*, *Alectorobius* (*A*.) *maritimus* was found from breeding sites of terns and *A*. (*A*.) *capensis* associated with terns in the Langue de Barbarie National Park (PNLB) and with pelicans in the Bird National Park of Djoudj (PNOD). *A*. (*Theriodoros*) *sonrai* inhabits the burrows of Sciuromorpha and Myomorpha rodents and is widely distributed in Senegal, *Ornithodoros* (*O*.) *savignyi* is localized in northern Senegal in sandy areas under trees around wells. Two other species of which systematic positions remain to be elucidated are known from nests of pelicans in the Park of Djoudj and from Microchiroptera bats in the sudano-sahelian area. *A*. (*P*.) near *walkerae* and *O*. (*O*.) *savignyi* are reported for the first time in Senegal. The occurrence of *A*. (*A*.) *maritimus* in Senegal is confirmed. The lists of common and incidental hosts are given as well as distribution according to main ecological divisions.

VAN WYK, J. and RAUTENBACH, I. L., 2005. *Lamprophis capensis* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1854) brown house snake: diet. *African Herp News* 38: 25-26.

NOTICE BOARD

Conferences

6th Southern African Society for Systematic Biology

To be held at: Kruger National Park, South Africa, 14 - 17 July 2006

Further information: http//swarm.co.za/SASSB2006/SASSB1.htm

36th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research

To be held at: Wrightsville Beach, NC, USA, 18-21 October 2006.

Further information: http://www.nasbr.org

Future planning

- 21st Annual Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 1-5 July 2007.
- 37th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research, tentatively scheduled for Mexico in 2007. [http://www.nasbr.org]
- 14th International Bat Research Conference, Oaxaca, Mexico, 5 -11 August 2007.
- 11th European Bat Research Symposium, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, August 2008.
- 12th European Bat Research Symposium, Lithuania, August 2011.

Call for contributions

African Bat Conservation News publishes short communications, life history notes, geographical distributions, bat surveys, echolocation & sonograms, recent and past literature, short book reviews, announcement of workshops and news items.

African Bat Conservation News Project Cycle
Issues will be published Quarterly (January, April, July, October).
Deadlines for scientific contributions (1 November, 1 February, 1 May, 1 August).
Deadlines for non-scientific contributions (1 December, 1 March, 1 June, 1 September).

Contributions should be sent to the editor: Ernest C.J. Seamark [tehome@mweb.co.za]