37: 50) record a large Natal hunting spider as well as a snake and snail.

Submitted by: **JOHAN VAN RHYN** (56 Besembos Ave, West Acres, Nelspruit, 1200).

Lacertidae

TROPIDOSAURA MONTANA NATALENSIS

Natal mountain lizard

REPRODUCTION

On 20 September 1987 a gravid female (50 + 105 mm) of this poorly known lacertid was found under a small, loose rotting tree stump in a patch of grassland surrounded by sugarcane fields, near Richmond, Natal, South Africa (2930Cd). Although the specimen readily ate termites, it died after three weeks in captivity, possibly due to complications associated with egg-laying. It is deposited in the private collection of R. B. Yeadon (RY91). Five eggs (four measured 9 x 6 mm, another 6.5 x 4 mm) were dissected from the oviducts but, although incubated in slightly moist soil in a bottle, went rotten.

Submitted by: **R. B. YEADON** (213 Davenpoort Square, Davenpoort Road, Durban, 4001).

NUCRAS LALANDII

Delalane's sandveld lizard

SIZE and REPRODUCTION

A large female (97 + 214 = 311 mm) was collected on a rocky ridge in grassland near Nottingham Road (2930Ac), 11 October 1990, R. B. Yeadon (specimen still alive in private collection, LR 295). Branch (1988, *Field Guide to the snakes and other reptiles of southern Africa*, Struik Publ.) gives maximum size of 290 mm. On 28 October 1990 the female laid seven eggs.

Another female (90 + 185 = 275 mm) was collected beneath a medium-size flat rock at Highmoor, Natal (2929Bc) on 26 November 1989. Seven eggs (16 x 11 mm) were also present in a chamber off a tunnel in the soil beneath the rock. They were collected with surrounding soil and incubated in a bottle on top of the soil at room temperature. On 18 January 1990 the first egg began to hatch, and by midnight all seven eggs had hatched. Termites were readily accepted on the next day, but within a month all hatchlings became listless and soon died. They were not preserved.

Submitted by: **R. B. YEADON** (213 Davenpoort Square, Davenpoort Road, Durban, 4001).

Gerrhosauridae

GERRHOSAURUS NIGROLINEATUS

Black-lined plated lizard

REPRODUCTION

On 15 November 1990 an adult *Gerrhosaurus nigrolineatus* was chased down what appeared to be a disused rodent burrow, just outside the main camp, Manyeleti Game Reserve (MRC) (2431CB). Upon excavation the burrow led to a central chamber with several other burrows radiating outwards. The ovoid central chamber (200 mm wide, 260 mm high, 200 mm below surface, and 750 mm from entrance to burrow) contained 9 incubating eggs and a total of 19 hatched egg shells from previous seasons. The viable eggs were removed and incubated at MRC in moist vermiculite at 27-30°C. Egg measurments: length - mean 29.99 mm, SD. 0.76 mm, range 27.3-30.1 mm; width - mean 16.44 mm, SD. 1.87 mm, range 12.0-18.2 mm; mass - mean 4.87g, SD. 0.22 g, range 4.6-5.2g.

The eggs started hatching on 1 February 1991 after a captive incubation period of 78 days. The duration that the eggs had been underground is unknown. By 2 February a total of 4 hatchlings had emerged. Acting upon the belief that the total clutch of 9 eggs had probably been produced by several females over a period of time, it was decided to open one of the eggs on 6 February to ascertain the extent of development. This egg contained a live full-term embryo which was then removed. The following day the rest of the eggs were opened and the live hatchlings were manually removed. Hatchlings measurements: total length, mean 169.33 mm, SD. 5.94 mm, range 162-178 mm; snout-vent length, mean 116.55 mm, SD. 4.36 mm, range 111-124 mm; mass, mean 3.52 mm, SD. 0.22 g, range 3.2-3.8 g. One of the hatchlings died within 24 hours of emergence and was deposited in the herpetological collection of the Transvaal Museum (GAZ 3557). The remaining young were housed in a large glass aquarium and readily accepted canned dog food and insects. No published information on the reproduction of the species can be traced. The eggs of *G. flavigularis* are considerably smaller (Boycott and Morgan, 1988, *J. Herpetol. Assoc. Afr.* **35:** 15-18).

Acknowledgements: We thank Messrs R. A. Els and D. S. Reynolds for excavating the nest.

Submitted by : **G. V. HAAGNER** (Port Elizabeth Museum, P.O. Box 13147, Humewood 6013) and **D. R. MORGAN** (Tygerberg Preservation Trust, P.O. Box 524, Kraaifontein 7570).

Cordylidae

PSEUDOCORDYLUS MELANOTUS TRANSVAALENSIS

Transvaal crag lizard

SIZE and DISTRUBTION

Two large males were collected on a rocky ridge in grassland near Nottingham Road (2930Ac). The largest (120 + 161 = 281 mm) was collected 25 August 1990, R. B. Yeadon (private collection RY 240). The other large male (122 + 112 = 234 mm, tail truncated) was collected on 11 October 1990, R. B. Yeadon. Broadley (1964, *Ann. Natal Mus.* **16:** 99-110) lists a maximum male TL of 239 mm, whilst Branch (1988, *Field Guide to the snakes and other reptiles of southern Africa*, Struik Publ.) gives a maximum size of 340 mm for the species, but does not specify whether it is the typical race or *P. m. transvaalensis*.

Branch (*op. cit.*) also list from 1-4 young for the species, but a large female collected on 30 September 1990 from the above locality (R. B. Yeadon, RY 347) contains seven almost fully formed young. The most proximal baby, with the smallest yolk sac, measures 35 + 47 = 82 mm. All seven young have been preserved (RY 377).

Submitted by: **R. B. YEADON** (213 Davenpoort Square, Davenpoort Road, Durban, 4001).

PSEUDOCORDYLUS MELANOTUS SUBVIRIDIS

Drakensberg crag lizard

SIZE

Two large specimens have been collected in Natal: An adult male 118 + 150 = 268 mm), from Sani Pass, Natal (2929Cb), on rocks