CATESBEIANA

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 2

1982

NUMBER 1

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Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

Volume 2

Spring, 1982

No. 1

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BULLETIN INFORMATION

The Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles. Membership includes a subscription to Catesbeiana and admission to all meetings. Dues are \$5.00 per year and include Catesbeiana numbers 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Ben Greishaw, Treasurer, VallS, 7622 Hollins Road, Richmond, VA 23229. Herpetological Societies desiring exchange of publications should send copies of their society publications to Dr. Don Merkle, Dept. of Natural Sciences, Longwood College, Farmville, VA 23901. All manuscripts for publication should be submitted to Don Merkle.

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the Virgina Herpetological Society will be held on Saturday, May 1, 1982 at the home of Bob Bader in Halifax County, Virginia. A Map with directions is shown on page 3.

10:00 A.M.	Business Meeting
1:00 P.M.	Paper presentations
7:00 P.M.	Field Trip

EDITOR'S NOTE

The fall meeting of VaHS held at Longwood College was a real success. Not only did the majority of the active old membership attend, but there were a number of new individuals present. A very productive business meeting was held in the morning during which the following items were discussed. It was decided that annual dues would be for a volume year which would consist of two issues. Volume 1 of Catesbeiana would consist of a single volume and was distributed free of charge to all individuals who had expressed an interest in VaHS over the last few years. All dues collected since the first issue of Catesbeiana would be applied toward the year beginning with this issue. Back issues of the old series of the Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society were distributed to all members that desired them.

The following slate of officers were elected for the upcoming year:

President:	Bob Bader, Route 2, Box 78, Brookneal, VA 24528
Vice-President:	Dr. Jack Brooks, Dept. of Biology, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185
Secretary:	Joe Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of . Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173

Treasurer: Ben Greishaw, 7622 Hollins Road, Richmond, VA 23229

Dr. Jack Brooks is drafting a new constitution for VaHS and will present it at the May meeting for approval of the membership. The next meeting of VaHS will be held on May 1, 1982 at the residence of Bob Bader, South Isle Plantation in Halifax county, Va. A map to Bob's place is on the following page. Bob says that there is plenty of room for anyone that would like to stay overnight on Friday and/or Saturday. Be sure to bring your sleeping bag. There will be a business meeting at 10:00 A.M. and a paper session beginning at 1:00 P.M. A field trip to observe the local anurans is tentatively scheduled for Saturday night, as is a Sunday trip into Halifax county and surrounding environs. Individuals wishing to present a talk should contact Bob Bader so that he can put a program together.

A number of presentations were made at the fall meeting including the following:

1.	Additions to Virginias Herpetofauna Joe Mitchell
2.	Easternmost distribution of Pseudacris triseriata
	Chris Paque
3.	Venomous snakes & Snakebite Bob Bader
4.	On the ecology of Virginia's freshwater turtles-Joe Mitchell
5.	Chicken turtle in Virginia? Chris Paque
6.	Distribution of Plethodon yonahlossee in Virginia
	Richard Hoffman
7.	Snakes of the eastern United States Don Merkle



1.3

POPULATION ESTIMATES OF LEUROGNATHUS MARMORATUS MOORE AND DESMOGNATHUS QUADRAMACULATUS (HOLBROOK) AT WHITETOP MOUNTAIN, VIRGINIA

Eugene V. Gourley and Charles M. Neal Department of Biology Radford University Radford, VA 24142

Leurognathus marmoratus Moore occurs from northeastern Georgia and the northwestern tip of South Carolina into the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina and into southwestern Virginia. Three localities have been reported for Virginia; the Blue Ridge Parkway in Floyd County (Conant, 1975a, 1975b); Big Branch, Smyth County (Hoffman and Hoffman, 1956); and Daves Branch, Smyth County (Gourley, 1979) (Figure 1).

Desmognathus quadramaculatus (Holbrook) has a distribution similar to \underline{L} . marmoratus but the northern edge of the range extends into southern West Virginia (Conant, 1975a) (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Distribution of Leuroqnathus marmoratus Moore in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Solid circle indicates location of study area. -4-Figure 2. Distribution of Desmognathus quadramaculatus (Polbrook) in the southern Arpalachian Mountains. Solid circle indicates location of study area. The local distributions and extent of these two species are not well known. This is of particular concern for L. marmoratus because its status is currently listed as "of special concern" in Virginia (Hoffman, 1979).

The study areas included 30 meter by 1 meter sections of Daves Branch north of and adjacent to State Route 600. Both streams are tributaries of Big Laurel Creek and are swift mountain streams with rocky stubstrates located at an altitude of approximately 3600 feet. These streams seem to provide ideal habitats for L. marmoratus and D. quadramaculatus as described by Martof (1962).

Materials and Methods

Adult Leurognathus marmoratus and Desmognathus quadramaculatus were collected at weekly intervals between June 27 and July 26, 1981. Large and small rocks in the streams were turned quickly by hand and salamanders were captured with a wire screen pressed closely to the substrate. Captured adults were identified to species and snoutvent length was determined by placing the salamanders in a test tube and measuring with a Vernier caliper. Individuals were marked by toeclipping and were released as close to the capture site as possible.

Population estimates (N) were determined using the weighted mean method, a modification of the Lincoln index for multiple mark, release and recapture (Begon, 1979). The equation for this calculation is:

$$N = \frac{\sum M_{i}n_{i}}{(\xi m_{j}) + 1}$$
where n_{i} = total captures
$$m_{i}$$
 = total caught and previously marked
$$M_{i} = r_{i} - m_{i}$$

$$r_{i}$$
 = number released

SE = N
$$\Sigma \frac{1}{\Sigma m_{i} + 1} + \frac{2}{(\Sigma m_{i} + 1)^{2}} + \frac{6}{(\Sigma m_{i} + 1)^{3}}$$

Results

During the study period a total of 30 Leurognathus marmoratus were marked and released in Daves Branch with four recaptures. Ten Desmognathus quadramaculatus were recaptured out of 58 individuals marked and released. The weighted mean estimate of the Daves Branch L. marmoratus population was 81 + S.E. 46. The D. quadramaculatus populations were estimated at 127 + S.E. 38. Fifteen <u>L. marmoratus</u> were marked and released in Big Branch with five recaptures. The <u>L. marmoratus</u> population was estimated at 22 + S.E. 11. Twenty seven D. quadramaculatus were marked and released with 13 recaptures. The Big Branch population of <u>D. quadramaculatus</u> was estimated at 55 + S.E. 16.

The density of L. marmoratus was 2.7 individuals/meter² in Daves Branch and 0.7 individuals/meter² in Big Branch. <u>Desmognathus quadra-</u> <u>maculatus</u> had a density of 4.2 individuals/ meter² in Daves Branch, and 1.8 individuals/ meter² in Big Branch.

Snout-vent lengths of captured and marked salamanders are presented in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Snout-vent lengths of <u>Leurognathus marmoratus</u> Moore in Big Branch (solid circles) and Daves Branch (open circles) and <u>Desmognathus quadramaculatus</u> (Holbrook) in Big Branch (solid squares) and Daves Branch (open squares).

Conclusions

The snout-vent lengths of <u>Desmognathus</u> <u>quadramaculatus</u> and <u>Leurognathus</u> <u>marmoratus</u> were not significantly different from the ranges given by Organ (1961) and Martof (1962, 1963).

The population estimates for <u>Desmognathus quadramaculatus</u> were consistently greater than the population estimates of <u>L</u>. <u>marmoratus</u> in both streams. The greater number of <u>D</u>. <u>quadramaculatus</u> may be due to the low stream levels at the time of this investigation. <u>Desmognathus quadramaculatus</u> seems to prefer the edges of swift mountain streams where <u>L</u>. <u>marmoratus</u> prefers rapids and rapidly moving water. For this reason, dry periods seem to be more critical for <u>L</u>. <u>marmoratus</u> due to decreases in suitable habitat and the <u>D</u>. <u>quadramaculatus</u> population is favored when the salamanders are brought into increased competition with one another. When rainfall is more normal, competition is almost nonexistent (Martof, 1962).

The density of <u>L</u>. marmoratus in both streams was lower than the density reported by Martof (1962) for Georgia streams. The low numbers of <u>L</u>. marmoratus may be due to increased competition by <u>D</u>. <u>quadramaculatus</u> or may be due to location of these populations at the northernmost known limit of their range. Additional field work is needed to determine the full extent, distributions, population dynamics and interactions of these two species.

Literature Cited

Begon, M. 1979. Investigating animal abundance. University Park Press. Baltimore. Md. 97 pp.

Conant, R. 1975a. A field guide to the reptiles and amphibians of eastern and central North America. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. 429 pp.

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Hoffman, R.L. 1979. Shovel-nosed salamander, <u>Leurognathus marmoratus</u> Moore <u>In Endangered and threatened plants and animals of Virginia. D.W.</u> <u>Linzey (ed.) Center for environmental studies. V.P.I. and S.U.</u> Blacksburg, Va.

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Martof, B.S. 1962. Some aspects of the life history and ecology of the salamander Leurognathus. Amer. Midland Nat. 67:1-35.

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Organ, J.A. 1961. Studies of the local distribution, life history, and population dynamics of the salamander genus <u>Desmognathus</u> in Virginia. Ecol. Monog. 31(2):189-220.

VAHS LIBRARY HOLDINGS

The Virginia Herpetological Society exchanges publications with many of the other state and regional herpetological societies. These publications are for the use of all VallS members and the latest issues are always available at meetings. All members are encouraged to read them, as there is quite a bit of herpetological information presented that is not available otherwise. All VallS holdings, including a partial set of Copeia (1934-1958) are stored at Longwood College. Any member of VallS wishing to look at VallS holdings would also have access to my personal sets of Herpetologica, Journal of Herpetology, newer issues of Copeia, etc. Back issues of a number of the earlier Bulletins of the Virginia Herpetological Society are also available to members.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGY NOW AVAILABLE

"A bibliography of Virginia amphibians and reptiles" has recently been compiled by Joe Mitchell, and is now available as Smithsonian Herpetological Service Publication Number 50. 875 papers dealing with all aspects of the herpetofauna of the state are listed by author, and by species.

This compilation will definitely enable all VaHS members to locate that elusive article that they know was published, but have forgotten where! Other than misspelling at least one author's name!!!! (See citations 549-550), the publication is relatively free of errors. Copies of this 51 page publication will be available free of charge to all VaHS members at the May 1, 1982 meeting. Those individuals unable to attend may obtain a copy by sending \$2.00 to cover postage and handling to: Ben Greishaw, Treasurer, VaHS, 7622 Hollins Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229.

NATIONAL ZOO OPENS NEW REPTILE HOUSE

Members of VaHS should be pleased to learn that the National 700 located outside Mashington, D.C. has finally opened its much awaited Reptile House. Dr. Dale Marcellini, Curator of Herpetology at the 700 has submitted the following list of exhibits for the renovated reptile and amphibian house. He has indicated that these species should make up the bulk of the collection for the next several years.

A 1	<u>Sceloporus</u> sp. Fence lizards
2	<u>Ameiva</u> sp <u>Ameiva</u> lizards or <u>Callopistes</u> <u>maculatus</u> Chilean spotted
3	Crotalus durissus South American rattlesnake
4	Heloderma suspectum Gila Monster
5	same as 4
78	Basiliscus plumbifrons Green crested Basiliscus Bitis gabonica Gaboon Viper
9 10 11	<u>Anolis equestris</u> Knight anole <u>Eublepharis macularis</u> Leopard gecko
12	Anolis sp. Anoles or <u>Callopistes maculatus</u>
13	<u>Phelsuma madagascariensis</u> Giant Day Gecko
14	<u>Sternotherus odoratus</u> Musk turtle
15	Lacerta trilineata Green Lacerta
16	Gonatodes sp. or <u>Sphaerodactylus</u> sp. small gecko
C 1	<u>Crotalus horridus</u> Timber rattlesnake
2	<u>Agkistrodon piscivorus</u> Cottonmouth
3	<u>Agkistrodon contortix</u> Copperhead
4	<u>Elaphe guttata</u> Cornsnake
5	Lampropeltis triangulum Eastern Milksnake
6 7 8 9	Lampropeltis getulus Eastern Kingsnake Elaphe obsoleta Black Ratsnake Thamnophis sirtalis Eastern Gartersnake Trimeresurus popeorum Pope's Pit Viper Gekko gecko Tokay gecko
11	<u>Chondropython viridis</u> Green tree python
12	same as 11
13	same as 11
14	<u>Python regius</u> Ball python
15	Boa constrictor Red-tailed boa
16	<u>Epicrates cenchria</u> Rainbow boa
17	<u>Corallus canina</u> Emerald tree boa
18	same as 17
19	same as 17
20	Dinsosaurus dorsalis — Decont Lauana
20	Dipassaurus dorsaris Deserci Indana

21 Platysternum megacephalum Big-headed turtles 22 Lampropeltis triangulum Sinaloan milksnake 23 Echis carinatus Saw-scaled viper 24 Ophisaurus apodus European glass lizard 25 Platemys platycephala Twist-neck turtle 26 Paleosuchus palpebrosus Dwarf caiman 1 Macroclemys temmincki Alligator snapping turtle D 2 Chelus fimbriatus Mata Mata turtle 3 Chelodina oblonga Snake neck turtle or Caiman crocodylus Yucare caiman 4 Geochelone carbonaria Red-footed tortoise Geochelone pardalis Leopard tortoise 5 Geochelone gigantea Aldabra tortoise Rana catesbeiana Bullfrog 6 7 Trionyx triunguis African softshell 8 Amphiuma tridactylum Three-toed amphiuma E 1 Tupinambis tequixin Black tequ 2 Boiga dendrophila Mangrove snake 3 Corallus enydris Amazon tree boa 4 Cyclgras gigas False water cobra 5 Cyclura cornuta Rhino iguana Naja naja Cobra 6 7 Varanus exanthematicus Savanna monitor Flexible exhibit; eggs, young, experiments, etc. 8 Tiliqua gigas Blue-tongued skink 9 10 Varanus salvator Water monitor Python molurus Burmese python 11 12 Eunectes notaeus Yellow anaconda 13 same as 12 14 Varanus salvator Water monitor Malaochersus tornieri Pancake tortoise 15 Ophiophagus hannah King cobra 16 F 1 Agalychnis callidryas Red-eyed treefrog Pyxicephalus adspersa African bullfrog 2 Bufo marinus Marine toad 3 Pseudotriton ruber Northern red salamander Ceratophrys ornata Ornate Horned frog 4 5 6 Dendrobates leucomelas Black and yellow poison arrow from 7 Leptodactylus pentadactylus Smokey jungle frog Megophrys nausata Asian horned frog 8 9 Salamandra salamandra Fire salamander Bombina orientalis Fire-bellied toad 10 Ambystoma mexicanus Axolot1 11 12 Xenopus laevis African clawed frog 2 Crocodylus rhombifer Cuban crocodile В 3 same as 2

4 Tomistoma schlegeli False gharial

H 1 <u>Alligator mississippiensis</u> American alligator 2 Caiman crocodilus Yucare caiman

3 Paleosuchus trigonatus Smooth-fronted caiman

G Assorted native turtles

THE VIRGINIA NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM: REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Joseph Mitchell University of Richmond Richmond, VA 23173

The Virginia legislature recently approved a tax writeoff box for the 1981 Virginia income tax forms. This allows a Virginia taxpayer who receives a refund to contribute part (or all) of that refund to the newly formed nongame program being developed by the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Commission. Monies received from these contributions will fund the initial phase that involves the building of an information data base on about 250 nongame species of Virginia fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. A primary purpose is to educate the public about nongame species and their role in Virginia's environment. This data base would also be used to supply information to various government and private groups on the faunal diversity and quality of areas of interest.

The data base involves the use of a computer program (Biota of Virginia = BOVA) developed at VPI for large scale information storage and retrieval. Information on various apects of each species would be accumulated. This includes detailed distributional data, historical occurrence, population size and density, food habits, reproduction, habitat types, larval and adult habitats of amphibians, etc. The list of 250 is the initial listing chosen for the first phase of the program. At some later time other species would be added. Criteria for choosing a species are: 1) whether the species is known, or thought to be, in need of protection; 2) whether the species could be used as an ecological indicator species to detect changes in habitat quality; and 3) special considerations, such as health reasons (Poisonous snakes) or if the species were indicative of major distributional patterns in Virginia. Data would be accumulated as received from specialists on the species, the literature, and from specially funded research projects (a plan for future program functions). Since public education seems to be of paramount importance, information booklets and articles will probably be written and distributed.

I was asked to advise the nongame people on herps that should appear on the list. They already had a preliminary list and after considerable discussion we came up with the list below. Obviously not all the species that probably should be on the first list were chosen. Also, not all of the species listed in the VPI Endangered species book were chosen. The list is the combined attempt to produce an assemblage of species that would, based on the criteria above, be agreeable to the nongame people and herpetologists. I think it is a representative list and is a start in the right direction. If you have any questions about the nongame program in Virginia, write to Robert W. Duncan or William E. Neal, Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 Mest Broad Street, Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230.

Species of Amphibians and Reptiles on the Nongame Program List:

Salamanders

Ambystoma maculatum Cryptobranchus alleganiensis Desmognathus auriculatus Desmognathus fuscus Desmognathus quadramaculatus Eurycea bislineata Leurognathus marmoratus Necturus maculosus Necturus punctatus Plethodon cinereus Stereochilus marginatus

Snakes

Agkistrodon contortix Agkistrodon piscivorus Carphophis amoenus Coluber constrictor Crotalus horridus Elaphe guttata Elaphe obsoleta Heterodon platyrhinos Lampropeltis getulus Nerodia septemvittata Nerodia sipedon Storeria dekayi Thamnophis sirtalis Anurans

Acris crepitans Acris gryllus Hyla femoralis Rana catesbeiana Rana clamitans Rana virgatipes

Turtles

<u>Clemmys</u> <u>guttata</u> <u>Clemmys</u> <u>muhlenbergi</u> <u>Sternotherus</u> <u>minor</u> <u>Terrapene</u> <u>carolina</u>

Lizards

<u>Eumeces laticeps</u> Scincella lateralis BOOK REVIEW:

The Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida. Part I: The Snakes. 1981. R.E. Ashton and P.S. Ashton. 176 pages, soft covers. (Available from Windward Publishing Co., P.O. Box

371005, Miami, Florida - \$10.58 includes postage)

Bob Bader Route 2, Box 78 Brookneal, VA 24528

The Ashtons have undertaken a tremendous task in attempting to provide a comprehensive field guide to the herpetofauna of Florida. Not since Carr and Goin published their 1955 work "Guide to amphibians and fresh water fishes of Florida" has there been an attempt to cover all of the states reptiles and amphibians.

"Part I: The Snakes" includes over 100 excellent color photographs, distribution maps, drawings, and species accounts for all of the species of snakes found in Florida. The authors have included descriptions and photographs of almost every subspecies and color phase. In addition to the popular "dot in the county" range maps, the authors have also included a very valuable table listing the frequency of occurence of each species in the 21 different types of habitat found in the state. The book contains a wealth of information on the different types of habitats within the state, laws pertaining to amphibians and reptiles, natural history and many other aspects of the herpetofauna of the state.

This book is a must not only for those interested in the snakes of Florida, but in snakes in general. We look forward to the publication of Part II: Lizards, Turtles, and Crocodilians, and Part III: The Amphibians.

ANTIFREEZE IN FROGS!

An article that appeared recently in <u>Science</u> (Feb. 5, 1982) entitled "Survival of frogs in low temperatures" reported results that should be of interest to all VaHS members. Several species of anurans that normally overwinter in leaf litter have been shown to produce glycerol during the fall and winter months that acts just as antifreeze in a cars radiator. <u>Hyla versicolor</u>, <u>Hyla crucifer</u>, and <u>Rana sylvatica</u> all produced glycerol whereas two species that normally overwinter in aquatic habitats (<u>Rana septentrionalis</u> and <u>Rana pipiens</u>) did not produce glycerol. The three species of terrrestrial overwintering frogs were able to survive being frozen for 5-7 days with body temperatures of -6°C and over 35% of their body water frozen! Previous research has shown that the overwintering sites occupied by these species often reach these temperatures.

ANNOULCING

SIXTH REPTILE SYMPOSIUM on CAPTIVE PROPAGATION & HUSBANDRY

at

THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JULY 28-31, 1982

CALL FOR PAPERS

All herpetologists are invited to submit for consideration the titles of papers they wish to present at the 6th Reptile Symposium on Husbandry and Propagation. Paper lengths may range from 15 to 40 minutes. A preliminary program will be established by April, 1982. Speakers will be expected to submit a 100-150 word abstract of their talk by April 30, 1982; a completed copy-ready manuscript must be submitted prior to the Symposium. Submit all program information to: Thomas A. Huff, Program Chairperson, Reptile Breeding Foundation, PO Box 1450, Picton, Ontario KOK 2TO Canada; 613/476-3351, 476-3691. Symposium Coordinator is: Dr. Martin J. Rosenberg, Department of Biology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106; 216/368-2755, 368-3558, 451-1081. Host Committee Chairperson is: Bela Demetar, Department of Herpetology, the National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20008; 202/357-1300. Symposium Series Director is: Richard A. Hahn, Zoological Consortium, Inc., 13019 Catoctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788; 301/662-0328.

(Copies of the Program for the Fifth Symposium, held in Oklahoma City, June 9-12, 1981, are available for eximination. See or leave message for Martin J. Rosenberg.) -14**1982 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING**

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES 25th Anniversary Meeting

> HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE 30th Annual Meeting

Raleigh, North Carolina: State Museum of Natural History 1-6 August 1982

HL DISTINGUISHED HERPETOLOGIST LECTURE: Speaker to be announced.

SSAR SILVER ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM:

"MOLECULAR AND GENOMIC EVOLUTION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES"

David B. Wake (University of California at Berkeley), Organizer and Moderator. This special symposium will focus on current questions concerning population structure and gene flow, species problems and relationships of taxa, and will include an overview of the newest techniques and approaches with a

look to the future. The 30 participants, comprising the leading authorities from Europe and North America, will cover these topics in several keynote lectures, research papers and public discussion sessions.

TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Research reports will be given in two formats: oral presentations (with several concurrent sessions) and poster sessions.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Several evening events are planned, highlighted by a genuine Old Fashioned Carolina Pig Pickin' and Barbeque.

FIELD TRIPS

Several trips will be scheduled following the meeting to the North Carolina Coastal Plain and Green Swamp and to the Blue Ridge Mountains and Great Smoky Mountains. Collecting of specimens will not be permitted, only photography.

DISPLAYS

- 1. "Herpetological Art and Photograph Display", including contest.
- "Amphibians of the Appalachian Mountains", a multimedia sound-and-slide presentation by David M. Dennis and Eric Juterbock.
- 3. "Live Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas", a display sponsored by the North Carolina Herpetological Society. Photography will be permitted.
- 4. "Herpetologists Then and Now", a slide show organized by David M. Dennis.
- 5. Displays of Herpetological Films, Books and Equipment.

WORKSHOPS

- "Program Funding, Administration and the Practicalities of Running a Regional Herpetological Society", sponsored by the SSAR Regional Society Liaison Committee and the North Carolina Herpetological Society.
- 2. "Gopher Tortoise Council", arranged by Richard Franz.
- 3. "Photography Workshop", a how-to-do-it session arranged by David M. Dennis.
- "Funding Sources for Herpetological Research", sponsored by the SSAR Zoo Liaison Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A detailed Program and Call for Papers will appear in *Herpetological Review* and in *Herpetologica*. For other details write Ray E. Ashton, North Carolina Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27611, U.S.A. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

3





SNAKE BREEDING SURVEY 1981

Dear Herpetologist,

It has come to my notice that you have an interest in reptiles and their associated biology. With protective legislation now enacted in all Australian States, the emphasis on breeding captive stocks has increased markedly. The importance of the captive breeding of Australian reptiles, particularly snakes, will without doubt, increase in future. Many herpetologists, particularly those new to the field, have no readily available source of literature available on how to breed snakes. This is a surprising state of affairs considering how many times snakes have been bred in captivity in this country. It is also surprising that next to nothing has been published on the subject.

This present Australia wide Survey hopes to collect and subsequently pool as much known information on captive breeding of snakes as possible. The results will be published in a similar format to that used by Richard Ross in his popular "Python Breeding Manual", an American publication.

In order for this survey to be a success, it requires the co-operation of all herpetologists including yourself. It would be appreciated that if you have bred any kind of Australian snake in captivity you could fill out one questionnaire. These questionnaires are necessarily lengthy due to the importance of collecting all relevant data. Please report all data as accurately as possible.

Please fill out a separate questionnaire per breeding if you have been fortunate enough to have bred snakes more than once. The results of this survey will probably be published in approximately one year.

If you know of other herpetologists who have bred Australian snakes, please ask them to fill out a questionnaire also. When filled out please return each questionnaire to:

 Snake Breeding Survey, 60, Arterial Road, St. Ives, N.S.W. 2075. Australia

If more questionnaires are required, simply send a request for extra copies to the above address or phone (Sydney) 449 5771.

Thanking you for your co-operation,

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Hoser

-18-