

Original article

Biogeography of the Reptiles of the Central African Republic

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This work is dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague Jens B. Rasmussen, Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract.—A large number of reptiles from the Central African Republic (CAR) were collected during recent surveys conducted over six years (October 1990 to June 1996) and deposited at the Paris Natural History Museum (MNHN). This large collection of 4873 specimens comprises 86 terrapins and tortoises, five crocodiles, 1814 lizards, 38 amphisbaenids and 2930 snakes, totalling 183 species from 78 localities within the CAR. A total of 62 taxa were recorded for the first time in the CAR, the occurrence of numerous others was confirmed, and the known distribution of several taxa is greatly extended. Based on this material and an additional six species known to occur in, or immediately adjacent to, the country from other sources, we present a biogeographical analysis of the 189 species of reptiles in the CAR.

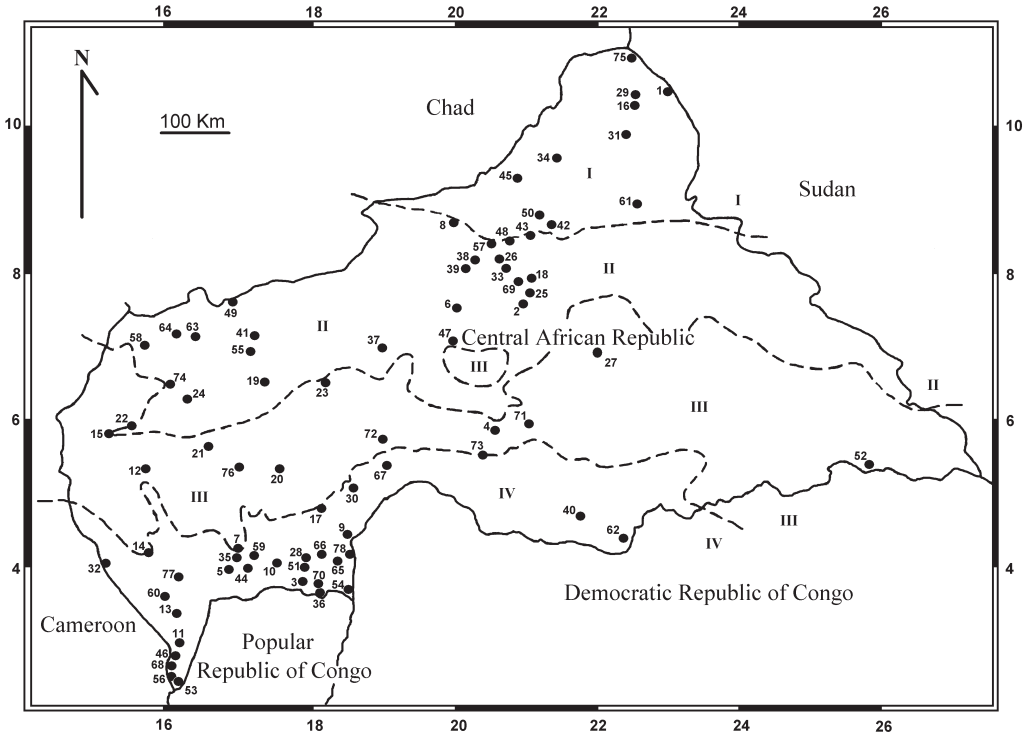
Key words.—Central African Republic, reptile fauna, biogeography, distribution.

The majority of African countries have been the subject of several reptile studies (see for example LeBreton 1999 for Cameroon). The Central African Republic (CAR) is an exception, with less than 10 studies having been conducted (see Joger 1990). The first publications on the herpetofauna of the CAR are those of F. Mocquard (Mocquard 1896a,b). This was followed by a study on the forests of the Maboke-Boukoko region (Roux-Estève 1965). More recently, Joger (1990) conducted an important synthesis of the herpetofauna of the CAR, covering the most significant and most recent collections. Later a new skink species was described from the CAR based on the material studied thereafter (Ineich & Chirio 2000). The important new collection made by one of us (L. Chirio) between October 1990 and June 1996 enables the completion of this work, by adding 62 new species for the country. Knowledge of the distributions of numerous species listed in previous works is

improved; known distributions of many species are greatly expanded and distributions of some species are questioned in light of our results. The extreme east of the country remains the only region where it is currently not possible to conduct surveys. However, no biomes or vegetation types are unique to this region. On the other hand, our recent collections greatly increase knowledge of the driest zone, found in the extreme north, which was unknown prior to this study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During recent collections made by the first author and two local herpetologists (Paul Makolowode and Hassane Aliou), 4873 specimens were collected from 78 localities in the CAR (see Fig. 1). Specimens were collected by hand, using glue traps, and occasionally using lead pellet shot. A large number of containers



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|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Am-Dafok | 21 Bossempaté | 41 Kouki | 61 Ouanda-Djallé |
| 2 Baboundji | 22 Bouar | 42 Koumbala | 62 Ouazoua |
| 3 Bagandou | 23 Bouca | 43 Kourou | 63 Paoua |
| 4 Bambari | 24 Bozoum | 44 Kpoka | 64 Pendé |
| 5 Bambio | 25 Brandja | 45 La Gounda | 65 Pont de la Lessé |
| 6 Bamingui | 26 Brandji-Preo | 46 Lidjombo | 66 Route de Mbaïki |
| 7 Banga | 27 Bria | 47 Mandjekene | 67 Route de Possel |
| 8 Bangbali | 28 Chutes de la Mbeko | 48 Manovo | 68 Salkapa |
| 9 Bangui | 29 Dahal-Azrak | 49 Markounda | 69 Sangba |
| 10 Barrière entrée ECOFAC | 30 Damara | 50 Matakil (chutes) | 70 S.C.A.D. |
| 11 Bayanga | 31 Delembé | 51 Mbaïki | 71 Seko |
| 12 Bayanga-Diddi | 32 Gamboula | 52 Mboki | 72 Sibut |
| 13 Beleboké | 33 Gbatou | 53 Mondika | 73 SOGESCA |
| 14 Berberati | 34 Gordil | 54 Mongoumba | 74 Soumba |
| 15 Bewiti | 35 Grima | 55 Nana-Bakassa | 75 Tizi-Fongoro |
| 16 Birao | 36 Ibengué | 56 Ndakane | 76 Yaloké |
| 17 Boali | 37 Kaga-Bandoro | 57 Ndélé | 77 Yamando |
| 18 Bohou | 38 Kaga-Nze | 58 Ndim | 78 Zimba |
| 19 Bossangoa | 39 Kaga-Poungourou | 59 Ngotto | |
| 20 Bossembélé | 40 Kembe | 60 Nola | |

Figure 1 : Map of the Central African Republic showing sampling localities (I - Sudano-Saharan steppes; II - southern-Sudanese savannas; III - Congo-Guinean mesic savannas; and IV: Congo-Guinean forests).

of diluted formalin were also deposited in villages and retrieved after variable amounts of time. We also benefited from the assistance of Jose Lobao Tello (JLT, see Appendix 1) who was stationed permanently in the north of the country and who collected within the boundaries of the PDRN (Projet de Développement de la Région Nord/Northern Region Development Project) at Sangba. Two well-represented localities in our collection correspond to areas owned by SCAD (Central African Forestry Company; 45 km south of Mbaiki) and SOGESCA (Central African Sugar Company; 50 km south of Bambari).

Parts of the collections that form the core of this study were possible thanks to regular financing from two local projects, the PDRN (see above) and ECOFAC (Protection and Management of Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa). The on-site collections as well as their transfer to the MNHN were privately co-ordinated and financed by the first author.

Though no field guide on the CAR reptiles exists, identification of our specimens were made through the use of numerous books and revision papers dealing with neighbour countries or genera and species groups. Comparison with MNHN specimens from other countries were made when necessary. It is not possible here to list in details all the consulted bibliography.

The Central African Republic has four bioclimatic regions that extend from the north to the south of the country and cover a considerable range of latitudes (Boulvert 1986).

- In the extreme south of the country are two zones of Congo-Guinean forests that form part of the major forest block of Central Africa: one west of Bangui at the Cameroonian border and the other at the centre in the region of Bangassou. Precipitation varies between 1500

and 2000 mm with mean annual temperatures of approximately 25°C.

- To the north of these forest formations is a zone of Congo-Guinean mesic savanna woodland that extends north in the centre of the country around the 22nd parallel. Rainfall generally does not exceed 1500 mm per year. Note that in the region of Bouar, the most eastern mountains of the Adamaoua Range induce a mildly cooler (mean temperatures 22°C) and wetter climate.

- Further north is a zone that is a continuation of the southern-Sudanese savannas, with higher mean temperatures (28°C), and rainfall decreasing with decreasing latitude from 1500 to 900 mm per year.

- In the far north of the country, savanna and xerophytic steppes of the Sudano-Saharan type occur, where the climate is more arid and rainfall is less than 900 mm per year (mean temperatures 29°C).

RESULTS

Appendix 1 lists 4873 reptile specimens collected at 78 localities in the CAR. These specimens are referable to 183 taxa (species and subspecies), not including *Pelusios* sp. whose taxonomic status remains uncertain, and two apparent hybrids of *Kinixys belliana belliana* x *Kinixys belliana nogueyi* which remain of uncertain status. Taxa recorded from countries located near the CAR borders were also included in Appendix 1, as were taxa recorded only by other authors and whose occurrence in CAR is here considered as doubtful (not in bold in Appendix 1). We can add six species known from the CAR (or immediately adjacent) with certainty, but which were not collected during this study (in bold in Appendix 1): *Cycloderma aubryi*, *Letheobia wittei*, *Typhlops decorosus*, *Mehelya crossi*, *Philothamnus irregularis* and

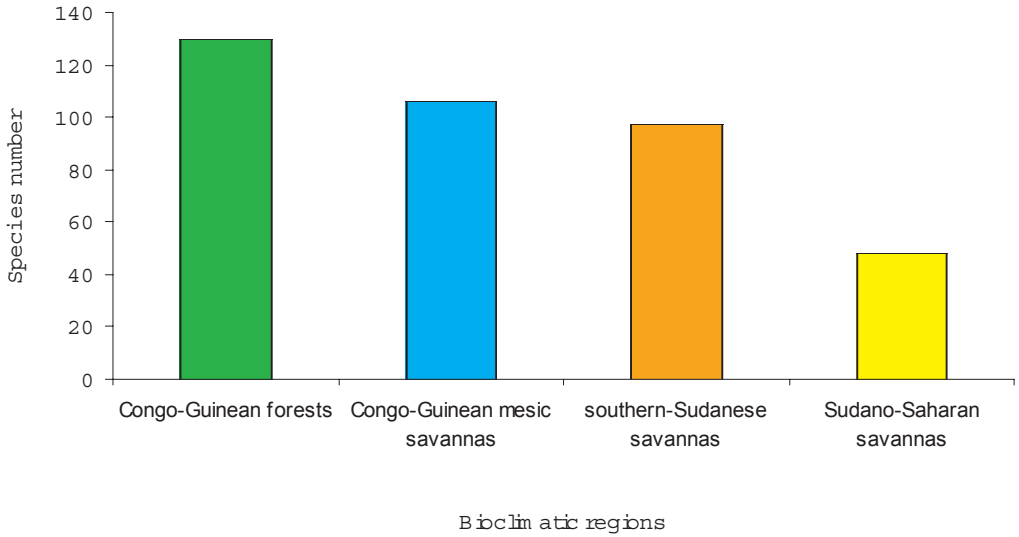


Figure 2: Number of reptile species in each of the four bioclimatic regions of Central African Republic.

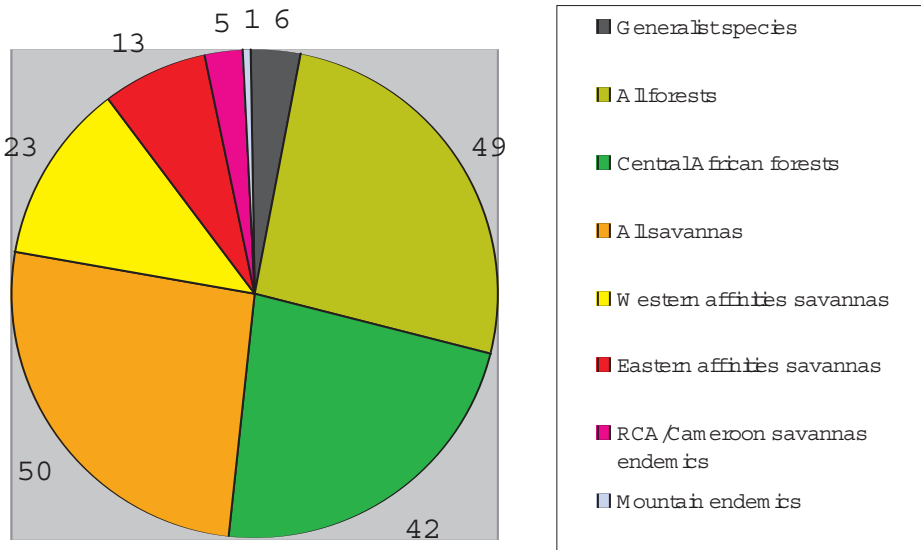


Figure 3: Biogeographic affinity groups of Central African Republic reptile species. Number of species per affinity group is indicated on the diagram.

Atractaspis reticulata (Joger 1990). A total of 189 reptile taxa are thus known for the CAR. This list includes 62 species recorded in the CAR for the first time (see Appendix 2). These are indicated by an asterisk in Appendix 1.

Figure 2 shows the reptile diversity (number of species) in each of the four biomes (bioclimatic regions) shown in Fig. 1.

Despite differences resulting from unequal periods of time spent in each of the four biomes, Figure 2 clearly shows maximum diversity in the Congo-Guinean forests (69% of the species), which progressively diminishes in Congo-Guinean savannas (56% of species), southern-Sudanese savannas (51% of species), to a minimum in Sudano-Saharan savannas (25% of species), some species being encountered in several biomes. This reduction of biodiversity along a south-north axis differs to patterns observed for birds, for which the biodiversity in forests and savannas is comparable (Marc Languy, Birdlife Cameroon, pers. comm.).

Biogeographic Analysis.—The broad distributions of the 189 reptile species found in the CAR, indicate that four major groups are distinguishable - six generalist species are found as commonly in forest as savanna, there are 91 forest species; 91 savanna species; and one species restricted to submontane biotopes.

A more detailed examination of the distributions of each of the major assemblages reveals that 49 species (27%) are found equally in western African forests and the major central African forest block; 42 species (23%) are associated exclusively with the major central African forest block; 50 species (27%) are found ubiquitously in savannas, broadly from Senegal to Ethiopia; there are 23 savanna species (13%) with western affinities which do not extend east of the CAR; there are 13 savanna species (7%) with eastern affinities which

do not extend past Cameroon in the west (of which four do not extend past the CAR in the west); there are five savanna species (2.5%) with limited distributions (endemic to the Cameroon savanna block); and a single species (0.5%) is endemic to the Cameroonian mountains, extending very marginally into the CAR at the eastern extremity of the Adamaoua Range.

Together with the six generalist species, we can thus distinguish a total of eight major groups of reptiles (Table 1). Figure 3 shows that the forest herpetofauna has strong affinities with that of other countries in the major central African forest block - 46% of forest species from the CAR is endemic to the major central African forest block (Uetz *et al.* 2002). The savanna herpetofauna has strong affinities with west Africa - 19 species with western affinities are found in the CAR at the eastern limit of their distribution, whereas only four species with eastern affinities are found in the CAR at the western limits of their distributions. They are: *Lycophidion capense*, *L. depressirostre* and *Naja subfulva*, in mesic savannas, and *Echis pyramidum* in Saharan savannas. The latter species is an interesting case as it has a disjunct distribution similar to the pattern shown by *Echis ocellatus*. Whereas *E. pyramidum* is widespread in eastern Africa, from Kenya to Egypt, through Sudan and Ethiopia, *E. ocellatus* is found in western Africa from Senegal to the region of Paoua in the west of the CAR. The distributions of these two species are thus separated by the large lowland floodplain of Bahr Azoum in the south of Chad that offers no xeric rocky or sandy habitat, which is typically preferred by *Echis*. In fact, this floodplain could have enabled the dispersal of thermophilic riparian species of eastern affinity (*Crotaphopeltis degeni*, *Causus resimus*) into the CAR and northern Cameroon.

Insights from isolated populations.—In addition to the broad distribution of species in the four

Table 1. Biogeographic affinities of the 189 reptile species from the Central African Republic.

BIOGEOGRAPHIC GROUP	SPECIES
Generalist species (6)	<i>Trionyx triunguis</i> , <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> , <i>Hemidactylus brooki</i> , <i>Agama agama</i> , <i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i> , <i>Python sebae</i>
Western and central African forest species (49)	<i>Pelusios gabonensis</i> , <i>Kinixys erosa</i> , <i>Kinixys homeana</i> , <i>Crocodylus cataphractus</i> , <i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i> , <i>Hemidactylus fasciatus</i> , <i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i> , <i>Chamaeleo cristatus</i> , <i>Holaspis guentheri</i> , <i>Lygosoma fernandi</i> , <i>Trachylepis affinis</i> , <i>Trachylepis maculilabris</i> , <i>Trachylepis polytropis</i> , <i>Varanus ornatus</i> , <i>Leptotyphlops sundewalli</i> , <i>Calabaria reinhardti</i> , <i>Boiga blandingii</i> , <i>Boiga puerulenta</i> , <i>Bothrophthalmus lineatus</i> , <i>Chamaelycus fasciatus</i> , <i>Dasyplepis fasciata</i> , <i>Dipsadoboa unicolor</i> , <i>Dipsadoboa viridis</i> , <i>Dipsadoboa weileri</i> , <i>Grayia smythii</i> , <i>Hapsidophrys lineatus</i> , <i>Hapsidophrys smaragdina</i> , <i>Hormonotus modestus</i> , <i>Lamprophis olivaceus</i> , <i>Lycophidion irroratum</i> , <i>Lycophidion laterale</i> , <i>Mehelya poensis</i> , <i>Mehelya stenophthalmus</i> , <i>Natriciteres fuliginoides</i> , <i>Natriciteres variegata</i> , <i>Philothamnus carinatus</i> , <i>Philothamnus heterodermus</i> , <i>Philothamnus nitidus</i> , <i>Rhamnophis aethiopissa</i> , <i>Thelotornis kirtlandii</i> , <i>Dendroaspis jamesoni</i> , <i>Naja melanoleuca</i> , <i>Pseudohaje goldii</i> , <i>Atheris squamigera</i> , <i>Bitis nasicornis</i> , <i>Causus lichtensteini</i> , <i>Aparallactus modestus</i> , <i>Atractaspis corpulenta</i> , <i>Polemon gabonensis</i>
Central African forest species (42)	<i>Pelusios chapini</i> , <i>Cycloderma aubryi</i> , <i>Hemidactylus longicephalus</i> , <i>Hemidactylus richardsoni</i> , <i>Lygodactylus depressus</i> , <i>Chamaeleo oweni</i> , <i>Rhampholeon spectrum</i> , <i>Adolfus africanus</i> , <i>Poromera fordii</i> , <i>Feylinia currori</i> , <i>Feylinia elegans</i> , <i>Feylinia grandisquamis</i> , <i>Feylinia macrolepis</i> , <i>Lacertaspis reichenowi</i> , <i>Melanoseps occidentalis</i> , <i>Panaspis breviceps</i> , <i>Trachylepis sp.1</i> , <i>Trachylepis sp.2</i> , <i>Letheobia debilis</i> , <i>Letheobia decorosa</i> , <i>Letheobia rufescens</i> , <i>Letheobia wittei</i> , <i>Rhinotyphlops angolensis</i> , <i>Rhinotyphlops congestus</i> , <i>Rhinotyphlops steinhausi</i> , <i>Dipsadoboa duchesnei</i> , <i>Grayia caesar</i> , <i>Grayia ornata</i> , <i>Hydraethiops melanogaster</i> , <i>Mehelya savorgnani</i> , <i>Rhamnophis batesi</i> , <i>Thrasops flavigularis</i> , <i>Thrasops jacksonii</i> , <i>Boulengerina annulata</i> , <i>Paranaja multifasciata</i> , <i>Atheris broadleyi</i> , <i>Bitis gabonica</i> , <i>Atractaspis boulengeri</i> , <i>Atractaspis reticulata</i> , <i>Polemon collaris</i> , <i>Polemon notatus</i> , <i>Polemon robustus</i>
African Savanna species (50)	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i> , <i>Pelusios adansonii</i> , <i>Geochelone sulcata</i> - <i>Lygodactylus gutturalis</i> , <i>Tarentola annularis</i> , <i>Agama doriae</i> , <i>Agama gracilimembris</i> , <i>Agama paragama</i> , <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> , <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> , <i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i> , <i>Acanthodactylus guineensis</i> , <i>Heliobolus nitidus</i> , <i>Latastia longicaudata</i> , <i>Gerrhosaurus major</i> , <i>Trachylepis quinquetaeniata</i> , <i>Varanus exanthematicus</i> , <i>Varanus niloticus</i> , <i>Rhinotyphlops lineolatus</i> , <i>Python regius</i> , <i>Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia</i> , <i>Dasyplepis scabra</i> , <i>Dispholidus typus</i> , <i>Dromophis lineatus</i> , <i>Grayia tholloni</i> , <i>Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia</i> , <i>Lamprophis fuliginosus</i> , <i>Mehelya capensis</i> , <i>Meizodon regularis</i> , <i>Natriciteres olivacea</i> , <i>Philothamnus heterolepidotus</i> , <i>Philothamnus irregularis</i> , <i>Philothamnus semivariatus</i> , <i>Prosymna ambigua</i> , <i>Prosymna greigerti</i> , <i>Psammophis phillipsi</i> , <i>Psammophis sibilans</i> , <i>Psammophis sudanensis</i> , <i>Scaphiophis albopunctatus</i> , <i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i> , <i>Elapsoidea semiannulata</i> , <i>Naja haje</i> , <i>Naja nigricollis</i> , <i>Bitis arietans</i> , <i>Causus maculatus</i> , <i>Amblyodipsas unicolor</i> , <i>Aparallactus lunulatus</i> , <i>Atractaspis aterrima</i> , <i>Atractaspis irregularis</i> , <i>Atractaspis watsoni</i>

<p>Species from Savannas with western affinities (23)</p>	<p><i>Pelusios castaneus</i>, <i>Cyclanorbis senegalensis</i>, <i>Tarentola ehippiata</i>, <i>Panaspis togoensis</i>, <i>Trachylepis buettneri</i>, <i>Trachylepis perroteti</i> - <i>Cynisca leucura</i>, <i>Rhinotyphlops punctatus</i>, <i>Leptotyphlops adleri</i>, <i>Leptotyphlops narirostris</i>, <i>Eryx muelleri</i>, <i>Crotaphopeltis hippocrepis</i>, <i>Gonionotophis grantii</i>, <i>Lamprophis lineatus</i>, <i>Lamprophis sp.</i>, <i>Lycophidion semicinctum</i>, <i>Mehelya crossi</i>, <i>Meizodon coronatus</i> - <i>Prosymna collaris</i>, <i>Psammophis elegans</i>, <i>Rhamphiophis oxyrhynchus</i>, <i>Telescopus variegatus</i>, <i>Echis ocellatus</i></p>
<p>Species from Savannas with eastern affinities (13)</p>	<p><i>Kinixys belliana</i>, <i>Lygosoma afrum</i> - <i>Crotaphopeltis degeni</i>, <i>Lycophidion capense</i>, <i>Lycophidion depressirostre</i>, <i>Philothamnus angolensis</i>, <i>Philothamnus bequaerti</i>, <i>Philothamnus hughesi</i>, <i>Telescopus obtusus</i>, <i>Elapsoidea laticincta</i>, <i>Naja subfulva</i>, <i>Causus resimus</i>, <i>Echis pyramidum</i></p>
<p>Species endemic to the CAR/Cameroon savannas (5)</p>	<p><i>Trachylepis pendeanus</i>, <i>Letheobia sp.1</i>, <i>Rhinotyphlops sp.</i>, <i>Leptotyphlops sp.</i>, <i>Dromophis praeornatus gribinguiensis</i></p>
<p>Sub-montane species (1)</p>	<p><i>Causus sp.</i></p>

major vegetation zones of the country, we observe within them important local variations of two principal types. Firstly, there are populations of some forest species that extend well into the savanna zones within the CAR. This general extension of the mesic zone, which is associated with an assemblage of forest species, extends towards the north in the centre of the country, from about 22°N (Fig. 1) all the way to Baboundji, Brandji-Preo or Sangba, a region where one also finds a small population of bongos (*Tragelaphus euryceros*), typical forest antelopes. Further north one finds several small isolated populations of forest reptiles in the southern-Sudanese savannas. There is thus an important population of *Trachylepis affinis* at Koumbala, and another around the Matakil Falls, at the southern limit of the Saharan-Sudanese savannas. These strictly riparian populations are entirely isolated from the nearest conspecific populations.

The presence of these small isolated populations of forest species in savanna zones is consistent with the findings of palynological studies (Maley 1985). In the relatively recent past

(25000–15000 years ago), the extent of forested regions was much greater in the north. These isolated populations can thus be considered as relatively ancient relics of past forest expanses in the north. However, the recent population reduction of herds of large herbivores, most notably savanna elephant *Loxodonta africana*, actually resulted in dynamic expansion of forest, with its suite of pioneer species such as *Naja melanoleuca* and *Trachylepis maculilabris*.

Conversely, nested within the forested zones are pockets of two types of savanna that differ in both edaphic characters and reptile fauna. On calciferous substrates, as in the savanna pockets in the south of Bangui, the formation of closed calciferous depressions induces local subsidence that create newly-formed small pockets of savanna in which reptiles are of distinctly forest origin (e.g., forest pioneer species such as *Trachylepis maculilabris*). In contrast, on sandstone sandy substrates such as in the biologically significant savannas of Beleboké to the south of Nola, a mixed reptile fauna occurs, comprising both forest pioneer species

and strictly savanna species such as *Agama gracilimembris*, *A. paragama*, *Chameleo senegalensis*, *Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*, *Atractaspis irregularis*, *Causus maculatus* and *Naja nigricollis*. The savanna species almost certainly represent relictual populations, being entirely isolated from the nearest conspecific populations by a significant forest barrier.

The presence of these isolated populations of savanna-affiliated reptiles in pockets of savanna of edaphic origin within forest zones is consistent with evidence of a more recent period during the Pleistocene (9000-8000 years ago) in which climatic conditions were drier. This period was characterised by a significant reduction of forest cover, with only a small number of refugia remaining (Mayr & O'Hara 1986). These small populations of savanna-affiliated reptiles have only persisted in the driest areas of the forested zones where, despite high rainfall, savanna vegetation has been maintained by excellent drainage of run-off as a result of sandy sub-soils (secondary formations of Carnot Sandstones).

These isolated populations of reptiles are evidence of the significant climatic fluctuations in central Africa during the latter part of the Quaternary (Maley 1985; Mayr & O'Hara 1986). From this perspective, reptiles, which are generally habitat specific and have poor dispersal abilities, may be more reliable indicators of past climatic change than mammals or birds.

CONCLUSIONS

Africa is certainly the least known continent in terms of its reptile fauna. Certain regions are entirely devoid of synthetic studies or field guides. This is the case for western and central Africa, for which there is, for example, no synthesis of our knowledge of lizards. The availability of such works has become a necessity

for, *inter alia*, conservation planning and will without doubt contribute to improving our knowledge of these poorly known species. A comprehensive field guide to the reptiles of eastern Africa was published only recently (Spawls *et al.* 2002). Snakes attract more research and are indisputably better studied than lizards, hence there exists a field guide to the snakes of central and western Africa (Chippaux 1999) with an older guide to the snakes of western Africa recently republished after revision (Villiers & Condamin 2005) and a third one in preparation restricted to Saharan and Sudano-Sahelian western Africa (J.F. Trape & Y. Mané in prep.). Lizards are less known than snakes and thus despite their collection being more easy: e.g., in our sample we have a mean of 37.79 specimens of lizard species (48 species for 1814 specimens) but only 24.41 specimens per snake species (120 species for 2930 specimens). Some countries are better surveyed than others owing in part to their general appeal, but also to the availability of infrastructure, accessibility and acceptable levels of security. This is the case for Cameroon, for which Matthew LeBreton has produced an excellent inventory (LeBreton 1999) and for which a detailed atlas of the distribution of reptiles is in press (Chirio & LeBreton in press).

Mapping distributions of reptile assemblages found throughout the continent is one of the current priorities for the understanding of African herpetology. This would constitute an excellent tool to aid in identifying gaps in taxonomic knowledge. It will also allow for the identification of inconsistencies in the distributions of numerous species which, by all available evidence, corresponds to complexes of cryptic species that are distinctly geographically separated (notably *Agama*, *Trachylepis*, *Dasyplepis*, *Lamprophis*, *Causus*, *Echis*, *Naja*).

As a result of this work the CAR and Cameroon has the best known herpetofauna of all French speaking sub-Saharan African coun-

tries. In other countries, only certain reptile groups are well known, most often snakes. This is the case for Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Ghana. In the present study 20 of 48 (42 %) lizard species recorded had not been previously recorded in the country and some are new to science. Only 35 of 120 (28 %) snake species recorded in this study had not been previously recorded in the CAR. Many studies are limited to a single, restricted geographic region of a country (see for example Ineich 2003). In addition, a considerable amount of information exists, but is dispersed in thousands of publications, or is in the form of collections preserved in museums throughout the world that remain largely under-exploited due to the lack of funding and support allocated to this kind of research (Lawson & Klemens 2001). The time is now right to collate this information, interpret it, and then conduct additional field work to fill in the gaps and verify problematic records. The current study is a step in this direction.

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APPENDIX 1

List of material:

All specimens are catalogued in the MNHN (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris) unless otherwise stated, so the acronym before the specimen number is omitted for the sake of brevity. * indicates first record for the CAR.

CHELONII [86 specimens]

PELOMEDUSIDAE [49 specimens]

***Pelomedusa subrufa* (Bonnaterre, 1789) [22 specimens]**

Pelomedusa subrufa (Lacépède, 1788); Joger, 1990: 90.

Bagandou, 1995.5668 - **Koumbala**, 1996.7493-4 - **Kouki**, 1994.8730-6; 1995.5666-7 - **Kpoka**, 1996.7506 - **Mandjekene**, 1999.8746 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7495 - **Sangba**, 1995-5681-3; 1999.8747-8 - **Seko**, 1996.7496-7.

****Pelusios adansonii* (Schweigger, 1812) [2 specimens]**

Birao, 1996.7500 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.7507.

****Pelusios castaneus* (Schweigger, 1812) [8 specimens]**

Bouar, 1994.8737 - **Kouki**, 1994.8738-9; 1994.8741-2 - **Manovo**, 1999.8715 (JLT) - **Paoua**, 1995.5669-70.

****Pelusios chapini* (Laurent, 1965) [12 specimens]**

Bangui, 1994.8740; 1995.9621 - **Boali**, 1995.5671 - **Ngotto**, 1995.9622 - **Sangba**, 1995.5672-8 - **Seko**, 1995.9623.

****Pelusios gabonensis* (Duméril, 1856) [4 specimens]**

Pelusios subniger (Lacépède, 1788); Joger, 1990: 90.

Pelusios niger (Dum. & Bibr., 1835); Joger, 1990: 90.

Mondika, 1996.7499 - **Ngotto**, 1995.9624 - **Zimba**, 1995.5680; 1996.7508.

Remarks: Joger (1990) lists two species of terrapin from the CAR based on material within the collections of the MNHN: *Pelusios niger* (Duméril & Bibron, 1835) (MNHN 1968.222-5) and *Pelusios subniger* (Lacépède, 1788) (MNHN 1892.101-2; MNHN 1892.356-7 [only specimen MNHN 1892.357 was found]). These specimens correspond to, respectively *P. gabonensis* (determined by R. Bour 1979) and *P. chapini* (determined by R. Bour 1979).

****Pelusios* sp. [1 specimen]**

Mboki, 1996.7498.

Remarks: This specimen appears to belong to an undescribed species (R. Bour pers. comm.),

but only the carapace is available. The characters available on the carapace do not fit any recognised species but detailed diagnosis can not be made until at least one entire specimen will be available.

TRIONYCHIDAE [6 specimens]

***Cycloderma aubryi* (A. Duméril, 1856)**

Cyclanorbis aubryi (A. Duméril, 1856); Joger, 1990: 90.

Remarks: Joger (1990) lists this species as potentially occurring in the CAR as it is found in areas immediately adjacent. Our collections did not enable us to confirm its presence, but we include it in our biogeographical analysis.

****Cyclanorbis senegalensis* (Duméril & Bibron, 1835) [6 specimens]**

Cyclanorbis elegans (Gray, 1869); Joger, 1990: 90.

Kouki, 1994.8728; 1995.5679 - **Sangba**, 1995.5651-4 (JLT).

***Trionyx triunguis* (Forskål, 1775)**

Trionyx triunguis (Forskål, 1775); Joger, 1990: 90.

Remarks: A specimen was found at Kouki but was not collected.

TESTUDINIDAE [31 specimens]***Geochelone sulcata* (Miller, 1779) [1 specimen]**

Geochelone sulcata (Miller, 1779); Joger, 1990: 91.

Birao, 1995.5655.

***Kinixys belliana belliana* (Gray, 1831) [12 specimens]**

Kinixys belliana (Gray, 1831); Joger, 1990: 91.

Bamingui, 1996.7504 - **Bangui**, 1994.8744 - **Birao**, 1994.8729; 1994.8743 - **Mboki**, 1995.5656; 1997.3176 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7485-6; 1996.7505; 1997.3177-8 - **Paoua**, 1995.5657.

**Kinixys b. belliana x Kinixys b. nogueyi* (Lataste, 1886) [2 specimens]

Brandja, 1999.8744 - **Koumbala**, 1999.8745.

Remarks: McCord *et al.* (2005) recognized *Kinixys nogueyi* as a valid species sympatric with *K. belliana* in the eastern Cameroon and the southwestern CAR as far east as Sibut. Because the type of *K. belliana* has an unknown origin and particular characters (R. Bour pers. comm.) we do not follow this position pending further investigations.

***Kinixys erosa* (Schweigger, 1812) [15 specimens]**

Kinixys erosa (Schweigger, 1812); Joger, 1990: 91.

Bagandou, 1995.5660-1 - **Bayanga**, 1995.5659 - **Grima**, 1996.7503 — **Ngotto**, 1996.7501-2 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7487-9 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.5662-4; 1996.7490-2.

**Kinixys homeana* (Bell, 1827) [1 specimen]

Bagandou, 1995.5665.

ARCHOSAURIA, CROCODYLIA [5 specimens]**CROCODYLIDAE [5 specimens]*****Crocodylus cataphractus* (Cuvier, 1825)**

Crocodylus cataphractus (Cuvier, 1825); Joger, 1990: 90.

Remarks: This species was not collected but only observed at Ngotto (and a skull is preserved in the offices of the ECOFAC project).

***Crocodylus niloticus* (Laurenti, 1768) [4 specimens]**

Crocodylus niloticus (Linnaeus, 1758); Joger, 1990: 90.

Berberati, 1997.3171 - **Damara**, 1997.3172-4.

**Osteolaemus tetraspis* (Cope, 1861) [1 specimen]

Zimba, 1997.3175.

SQUAMATA, LACERTILIA [1814 specimens]**GEKKONIDAE [360 specimens]*****Hemidactylus brooki angulatus* (Hallowell, 1852) [157 specimens]**

Hemidactylus brooki (Gray, 1845); Joger, 1990: 91.

Am-Dafok, 1996.8002-3 - **Bagandou**, 1995.3912 - **Bambari**, 1996.8014 - **Bamingui**, 1996.8004-8 - **Bangbali**, 1996.8009-13 - **Bangui**, 1994.8541; 1994.8556; 1995.3913-8; 1996.8015-45; 1997.3237-9 - **Berberati**, 1997.3462 - **Birao**, 1996.8046-7; 1996.8048-54 - **Boali**, 1995.3919-25 - **Bouar**, 1996.8055-8 - **Brandji-Preo**, 1996.8059-62 - **Dahal-Azrak**, 1996.8064 - **Delembe**, 1996.8065-9 - **Gbatou**, 1996.8063; 1996.8070 - **Gordil**, 1996.8071-3 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9163-4; 1999.9172 - **Kembe**, 1991.385 - **Kouki**, 1994.8539; 1994.8553-5; 1994.8557-61; 1994.8665; 1996.8075-82 - **Koumbala**, 1996.8074; 1996.8083-6 - **Kourou (between Koumbala and Manovo)**, 1996.8087 - **La Gounda**, 1994.8562-7 - **Manovo**, 1996.8088 - **Mboki**, 1996.8089-91; 1996.8168-70; 1997.3240-2 - **Ndele**, 1996.8092-8 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.8099-

104 - **Paoua**, 1996.8105 - **Sangba**, 1996.8171; 1999.8726 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.8106 - **Sibut**, 1996.8107 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.8108-10. 1995.3967-79; 1996.8155-60 - **Seko**, 1996.8161 - **Sibut**, 1996.8162-6 - **Zimba**, 1992.4758-9; 1994.8552; 1995.3980-7; 1997.3243-5.

Hemidactylus echinus (O'Shaughnessy, 1875).

Hemidactylus echinus (O'Shaughnessy, 1875); Joger, 1990: 91.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 91) mentions that this species is found in the CAR, based on Loveridge (1947). However, it appears to be strictly confined to Atlantic forests in the Cameroon (Chirio & LeBreton in press). We did not find it in the CAR and do not consider it part of the fauna of the CAR.

Hemidactylus fasciatus (Gray, 1842) [17 specimens]

Hemidactylus fasciatus (Gray, 1842); Joger, 1990: 91.

Chutes de la Mbeko, 1995.3926 - **Mondika**, 1996.8110; 1996.8112-3 - **Ndakane**, 1996.8114 - **Salkapa**, 1996.8115 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3927-32; 1996.8116-7 - **Zimba**, 1995.3933; 1996.8118-9.

**Hemidactylus longicephalus* (Bocage, 1873) [6 specimens]

Grima, 1996.8120 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.8122 - **Zimba**, 1995.3934-6; 1996.8121.

Hemidactylus mabouia (Moreau de Jonnès, 1818) [119 specimens]

Hemidactylus mabouia (Moreau de Jonnès, 1818); Joger, 1990: 91.

Bagandou, 1995.3937 - **Bambari**, 1996.8123-5 - **Bambio**, 1996.8126-7 - **Bangui**, 1992.4740-3; 1994.8540; 1994.8542; 1995.3938-46; 1996.8120; 1996.8129-34 - **Bayanga**, 1995.3947-9 - **Belemboke**, 1995.3950-9; 1996.8135-6; 1997.3463 - **Boali**, 1997.3532; 1995.3961-3 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8543 - **Bossebele**, 1996.8137-8 - **Bouar**, 1996.8139-44 - **Gamboula**, 1996.8145-6 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9161 - **Kouki**, 1994.8544-51; 1996.8147 - **Mongoumba**, 1995.3964-6 - **Ndakane**, 1996.8148-51 - **Ngotto**, 1996.8152 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.8153-4 - **Paoua**, 1992.4715 - **S.C.A.D.**,

Remarks: This species is an anthropophilous species but characteristic of southern humid forest and savanna areas in the CAR and Cameroon. It is not possible to consider this species as ubiquitous since it does not go further than the Paoua area north in Cameroon like *Trachylepis maculilabris*, which clearly is not considered as ubiquitous. *H. mabouia* was also collected in the deep forest of Zimba, far away from human buildings on high tree trunks. Thus we place this species in the “Western and central African forest species” group, contrary to *Hemidactylus brooki*, that we collected from Am-Dafok (extreme north of the CAR) to SCAD (extreme south of the CAR) and which is clearly an ubiquitous species like *Agama agama*.

Hemidactylus muriceus (W. Peters, 1870)

Hemidactylus muriceus (Peters, 1870); Joger, 1990: 91.

Joger (1990: 91) suggested that Loveridge (1947) confused this species with *Hemidactylus intestinalis* Werner, 1897; and that it is not possible to know to which of these two species his specimens should be assigned. The occurrence of this gecko in the CAR is consequently not confirmed. In Cameroon, it is restricted to evergreen Atlantic forest, as for *H. intestinalis* (Chirio & LeBreton in press). We therefore do not include these two species as part of the CAR reptile fauna.

**Hemidactylus richardsoni* (Gray, 1845) [3 specimens]

Bambio, 1995.9625 - **Mondika**, 1996.8167 - **Zimba**, 1995.9626.

Lygodactylus gutturalis (Bocage, 1873) [32 specimens]

Lygodactylus gutturalis (Bocage, 1873); Joger, 1990: 91.

Bangui, 1996.8172-4 - **Brandji-Preo**, 1996.8175-7 - **Gordil**, 1996.8178 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9160 -

Kouki, 1994.8568-83 - **Koumbala**, 1996.8179-82 - **La Gounda**, 1994.8584-6 - **Mboki**, 1997.3246.

**Lygodactylus depressus* Schmidt, 1919 [3 specimens]

Lidjombo, 1996.8183; **Ndakane**, 1996.8184-5.

Tarentola annularis annularis (Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, 1809) [21 specimens]

Tarentola annularis (Geoffroy, 1809); Joger, 1990: 91.

Brandji-Preo, 1996.8186-94 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.8195 - **Pende**, 1992.4721; 1995.3988-97.

**Tarentola ehippiata* (O'Shaughnessy, 1875) [2 specimens]

Tarentola ehippiata (O'Shaughnessy), 1875; Joger, 1990: 91

Kaga Pougourou, 1996.8196-7.

Remarks: Joger (1990) mentioned the presence of this species at Goré in Chad and suspected that it occurred in the CAR. However, he was unable to confirm its occurrence by reference to a specimen in a collection. Our material includes two specimens.

AGAMIDAE [364 specimens]

Agama agama (Linnaeus, 1758) [131 specimens]

Agama agama (Linnaeus, 1758); Joger, 1990: 91.

Am-Dafok, 1996.7612-3 - **Bagandou**, 1995.3845-51 - **Bambari**, 1995.3852-5; 1996.7614; 1996.7660-1 - **Bamingui**, 1996.7615-7 - **Bangbali**, 1996.7618-20; 1996.7662; 1996.7797-800; 1996.7901-4 - **Bangui**, 1996.7621-24 - **Bayanga**, 1996.7625 - **Beleboke**, 1996.7905 - **Berberati**, 1996.7628 - **Birao**, 1996.7664; 1996.7626-7; 1996.7665 - **Boali**, 1995.3856-7 - **Bohou**, 1999.9145 (JLT) - **Bossangoa**, 1992.4702-3 - **Bossebele**, 1996.7666-8 - **Bouar**, 1996.7669 - **Brandja**, 1999.8754-6 (JLT) - **Brandji-Preo**, 1996.7632-3 - **Dahal-Azrak**, 1996.7634; 1996.7670 - **Delembé**, 1996.7635-9; 1996.7641 - **Gordil**, 1996.7640-2; 1996.7752; 1999.8791-5 (JLT) - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9154 -

Kaga Pougourou, 1996.7643-5; 1996.7672 - **Kouki**, 1994.8500-3; 1994.8538 - **Koumbala**, 1996.7646; 1996.7673-5; 1999.8710 (JLT); 1999.8770 (JLT) - **La Gounda**, 1999.9162 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1996.7679 - **Ndele**, 1996.7647-50; 1996.7918-21 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7651-3; 1996.7676 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.7655-6; 1996.7674; 1996.7678 - **Ouzouza**, 1996.7677 - **Paoua**, 1992.4717-9; 1995.3858-66; 1995.3867-9 - **Sangba**, 1999.8706; 1999.8708-9 (JLT) - **Sibut**, 1992.4724 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.7657-9 - **Zimba**, 1994.8504.

Remarks: The subspecific nomenclature of that 'species', which clearly represent a complex of numerous cryptic species, will not be used here. We think its value doubtful until a large scale molecular study is undertaken.

Agama doriae (Boulenger, 1885) [46 specimens]

Agama doriae (Boulenger, 1887); Joger, 1990: 91.

Bangbali, 1996.7753-8 - **Bouar**, 1996.7631 - **Delembé**, 1996.7759-94 - **Ndele**, 1996.7795 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.7796 - **Paoua**, 1995.3884.

Agama gracilimembris (Chabanaud, 1918) [16 specimens]

Agama gracilimembris (Chabanaud, 1918); Joger, 1990: 91.

Delembé, 1996.7906-10; 1999.9169-70 (JLT) - **Gordil**, 1996.7911-4 - **Koumbala**, 1996.7917 - **Manovo**, 1996.7916 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.7922 - **Sangba**, 1999.8707 (JLT) - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.7915.

Agama paragama (Grandison, 1968) [171 specimens]

Agama paragama (Grandison, 1968); Joger, 1990: 91.

Am-Dafok, 1996.7680-1 - **Bagandou**, 1995.3875 - **Bambari**, 1996.7682-3 - **Bamingui**, 1996.7684 - **Bangbali**, 1996.7685-7 - **Bangui**, 1992.4736-8 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3876-7 - **Birao**, 1996.7688-9; 1996.7751 - **Boali**, 1995.3878-81 - **Bossebele**, 1996.7690-1 - **Bouar**, 1996.7692 - **Brandji-Preo**, 1996.7693 - **Dahal-Azrak**, 1996.7694 - **Damara**,

1996.7695 - **Delembe**, 1996.7696-703 - **Gbatou**, 1996.7704-5 - **Gordil**, 1996.7706-8; 1999.8893-930 (JLT) - **Grima**, 1996.7709-11 - **Ibengue**, 1996.7734-5; 1996.7737 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9137-8 - **Kaga-Nze**, 1996.7712 - **Kaga-Pougourou**, 1996.7749-50 - **Kouki**, 1996.7713-5 - **Koumbala**, 1996.7716-8 - **La Gounda**, 1994.8505-6; 1999.9139-44 (JLT) - **Markounda**, 1994.8507 - **Mboki**, 1996.7719-23 - **Ndele**, 1996.7724-5 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7726-30 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.7731-2 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7733 - **Paoua**, 1992.4720; 1994.8508 - **Sangba**, 1997.3531 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3870-4; 1995.3882; 1996.7736 - **Sibut**, 1996.7738 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.7739-47 - **Yaloke**, 1996.7748 - **Zimba**, 1992.4763-92; 1995.3883.

Agama sp.

Agama sp.; Joger, 1990: 92.

Remarks: Joger (1990) mentioned a particular male that he photographed at Koumbala in the CAR. Its colouration was black with very distinct white labials. He was unable to capture this specimen but suspected that it belonged to a new, undescribed species. We worked at Koumbala for one week without finding a male *Agama* resembling this description. We therefore consider Joger's male to be an aberrant individual and do not include his proposed new species in the biogeographic analysis.

CHAMAELEONIDAE [154 specimens]

**Chamaeleo africanus* (Laurenti, 1768) [8 specimens]

Am-Dafok, 1996.7923-30.

Chamaeleo cristatus (Stutchbury, 1837) [1 specimen]

Chamaeleo cristatus (Stutchbury, 1837); Joger, 1991: 92.

Bagandou, 1994.8509.

Chamaeleo gracilis (Hallowell, 1842) [84 specimens]

Chamaeleo dilepis (Leach, 1819); Joger, 1990: 92.

Chamaeleo gracilis (Hallowell, 1842); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bamingui, 1996.7942-3 - **Bangui**, 1992.4729-35; 1995.3885; 1995.3894; 1996.7944-7 - **Berberati**, 1996.7948-9 - **Bossangoa**, 1992.4700; 1992.4716; 1994.8527-30 - **Bossebele**, 1995.3895; 1996.7950-2 - **Bouar**, 1994.8510 - **Delembe**, 1999.9153 (JLT) - **Gamboula**, 1996.7953 - **Gbatou**, 1996.7954 - **Grima**, 1996.7955 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9150-2 - **Kouki**, 1994.8531-7 - **Manovo**, 1996.7956; 1999.8740 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3896-903; 1996.7931-41; 1997.3235-6 - **Ndele**, 1996.7957 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7958 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.7959-60 - **Ouzoua**, 1996.7961-3 - **Paoua**, 1995.3886-93; 1995.3904; 1996.7964 - **Sangba**, 1999.8880 (JLT) - **Zimba**, 1995.3905.

Remarks: Joger (1990) mentioned *Chamaeleo dilepis* Leach, 1819 from the CAR based on two specimens (1921.6-7). We examined these specimens and they are referable to *C. gracilis*.

Chamaeleo oweni (Gray, 1831) [24 specimens]

Chamaeleo oweni (Gray, 1863); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bagandou, 1994.8526; 1995.3906 - **Bayanga**, 1996.7979 - **Grima**, 1996.7980 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3907-8; 1995.3911; 1996.7986; 1996.7989-94 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7981; 1996.7983 - **Pont de la Lesse**, 1996.7982 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3909-10; 1996.7984-5; 1996.7987-8; 1996.7995.

**Chamaeleo senegalensis* (Daudin, 1802) [36 specimens]

Chamaeleo laevigatus (Gray, 1863); Joger, 1990: 92.

Baboundji, 1996.7965 - **Bambio**, 1996.7996 - **Bamingui**, 1996.7997-8 - **Bangui**, 1994.8511; 1996.7966 - **Belemboke**, 1996.7967 - **Berberati**, 1996.7968 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8512 - **Bouar**, 1996.7969-71 - **Kouki**, 1994.8513-25; 1996.8000 - **Ndim (Est de Bocaranga)**, 1992.4701 - **Ndele**, 1996.7972-7 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7978 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.7999 - **No locality**, 1997.3537.

Remarks: We assign the specimens listed under the specific name *Chamaeleo laevigatus* Gray, 1863 by Joger (op. cit.) to *C. senegalensis*.

Rhampholeon spectrum (Buchholz, 1874) [1 specimen]

Rhampholeon spectrum (Buchholz, 1874); Joger, 1990: 92.

S.C.A.D., 1996.8001.

LACERTIDAE [62 specimens]

**Acanthodactylus guineensis* (Boulenger, 1887) [1 specimen]

Ouanda-Djalle, 1996.8200.

**Adolfus africanus* (Boulenger, 1906) [1 specimen]

Grima, 1997.2801.

Heliobolus nitidus (Günther, 1872) [37 specimens]

Heliobolus nitidus (Günther, 1872); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bouar, 1997.2802-3 - Brandja, 1999.8757-63 (JLT) - Gbatou, 1997.2804 - Grima, 1997.2805 - Kaga-Bandoro, 1999.9167 - Kouki, 1994.8587-605 - Koumbala, 1997.2806 - Ngotto, 1997.2807-9 - Paoua, 1995.4000 - Sangba, 1997.3247.

**Holaspis guentheri* (Gray, 1863) [6 specimens]

Ibengue, 1995.4425; 1997.2810-1 - S.C.A.D., 1995.9627 - Zimba, 1995.9628-9.

**Latastia longicaudata* (Reuss, 1834) [3 specimens]

Dahal-Azrak, 1995.9630-2.

**Poromera fordii* (Hallowell, 1857) [14 specimens]

Baboundji, 1995.9658-9 - Belemboke, 1997.2812 - Kpoka, 1997.2813 - Ngotto, 1995.9660-1 - S.C.A.D., 1995.9662-7; 1997.3534-5.

GERRHOSAURIDAE [5 specimens]

Gerrhosaurus major bottegi (Del Prato, 1895) [5 specimens]

Gerrhosaurus major bottegi [sic] Del Prato; Joger, 1990: 92.

Bangui, 1992.4739 - Boali, 1995.3998-9; 1996.8198 - Sibut, 1996.8199.

Remarks: The central African populations are assigned to the subspecies *G. m. bottegi* in Broadley's (1987) revision. He recognises only one additional subspecies, namely *Gerrhosaurus major major* Duméril, 1851. Broadley examined central African specimens (Bozo) housed in the collections of the MNHN.

SCINCIDAE [845 specimens]

Feylinia currori (Gray, 1845) [33 specimens]

Feylinia currori (Gray, 1845); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bangui, 1991.388; 1991.393; 1992.4728; 1994.8606; 1994.8608; 1994.8613; 1995.4426; 1997.2814-20 - Bayanga, 1995.4427-8 - Belemboke, 1997.2821-3 - Berberati, 1994.8607; 1995.4429; 1995.4430; 1997.2824-5 - Bossembele, 1992.4707 - Ibengue, 1997.2831 - Ouazoua, 1997.2826-9 - Sangba, 1999.8595 (JLT) - S.C.A.D., 1997.2830 - Zimba, 1992.4762.

**Feylinia elegans* (Hallowell, 1852) [8 specimens]

Bangui, 1991.390 - Bayanga, 1995.4431 - Bouar, 1991.389 - Kaga-Bandoro, 1999.9168 - Zimba, 1991.391-2; 1994.8609; 1994.8611.

Feylinia grandisquamis (Müller, 1910) [4 specimens]

Feylinia grandisquamis (Müller, 1910); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bangui, 1992.4727 - Grima, 1997.2832 - Sangba, 1999.8596 (JLT) - Sibut, 1992.4725.

**Feylinia macrolepis* Boettger, 1887 [7 specimens]

Banga, 1997.2833-2834 - Grima, 1997.2835; 1997.3250 - Kaga-Bandoro, 1999.9159 - Zimba, 1994.8610; 1994.8612.

****Lacertaspis reichenowi* (W. Peters, 1874) [1 specimen]**

Mondika, 1997.3157.

***Lygosoma afrum* (W. Peters, 1854) [30 specimens]**

Mochlus afer (Peters, 1854); Joger, 1990: 93.

Boali, 1995.5629 - **Brandja**, 1999.8764-6 (JLT) - **Delemebe**, 1997.3095-6 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9157-8 - **Kouki**, 1994.8683-93; 1994.8697; 1994.8704-5; 1995.5622-4 - **Manovo**, 1997.3097 - **Mboki**, 1997.3098 - **Seko**, 1997.3099 - **Sibut**, 1992.4722-3.

***Lygosoma fernandi* (Burton, 1836) [9 specimens]**

Mochlus fernandi (Burton, 1836); Joger, 1990: 93.

Barrière Entrée ECOFAC, 1997.3106 - **Bayanga**, 1997.3100-2 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1997.3103 - **Zimba**, 1994.8698; 1995.5625; 1997.3104-5.

****Melanoseps occidentalis* (W. Peters, 1877) [10 specimens]**

Berberati, 1994.8614; 1995.5616-8 - **Boali**, 1995.5619-20 - **Mondika**, 1997.3094 - **Sangba**, 1999.8767 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.5621; 1995.9642.

Remarks: Brygoo and Roux-Estève (1981) described a new subspecies from former Zaïre (now Democratic Republic of Congo), *M. o. zairensis*. This subspecies is distinguished from *M. o. occidentalis* by its ventral scale count above 130 (versus below 130). In our sample of nine specimens this character varies from 117 to 141 (with only two specimens below 130, 117 for 1997.3094 and 124 for 1995.5618). The geographic origin of both specimens with ventral counts below 130 is not consistent with subspecific recognition but we noted however that all nine but one specimens had entire parietals, thus being more in agreement with *M. o. zairensis*. According to our conflicting characters we here prefer not to use the subspecific nomenclature.

****Panaspis breviceps* (W. Peters, 1873) [24 specimens]**

Bohou, 1999.9146-9 (JLT) - **Kpoka**, 1997.3107 - **Mondika**, 1997.3108-9 - **Ndakane**, 1997.3110 - **Ngotto**, 1995.9643-9; 1995.9655-7 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.5626; 1995.9650-3 - **Zimba**, 1995.9654.

***Panaspis togoensis* (F. Werner, 1902) [43 specimens]**

Panaspis togoensis (Werner, 1902); Joger, 1990: 93.

Bambari, 1997.3111 - **Bangui**, 1995.5627; 1997.3112-20 - **Bohou**, 1999.9165-6 (JLT) - **Brandja**, 1999.8814-25 (JLT) - **Brandji-Preo**, 1997.3151 - **Kouki**, 1994.8694-6; 1994.8699-703; 1995.3960 - **Kourou (between Koumbala and Manovo)**, 1997.3153-5 - **La Gounda**, 1999.8749 (JLT) - **Ngotto**, 1997.3152 - **Sangba**, 1999.8727 (JLT) - **Zimba**, 1995.5628; 1997.3533.

***Trachylepis affinis* (Gray, 1839) [143 specimens]**

Mabuya affinis (Gray, 1839); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bagandou, 1995.4432-3 - **Bambari**, 1997.2836-8 - **Bangui**, 1992.4747-8; 1994.8615; 1995.4434-6; 1997.2847-58 - **Berberati**, 1997.2859; 1997.3074 - **Bohou**, 1999.9173-7 (JLT) - **Bossemebele**, 1997.2860 - **Bouar**, 1994.8616 - **Brandja**, 1999.9178-99 (JLT) - **Brandji-Preo**, 1997.2839-42; 1997.3093 - **Chutes de la Mbeko**, 1995.4437 - **Damara**, 1997.2843 - **Gbatou**, 1997.2844-6; 1997.3091-2 - **Kouki**, 1994.8617-20; 1994.8622-7; 1994.8646 - **Koumbala**, 1997.2861-2; 1999.8711-2 (JLT); 1999.8881-92 (JLT) - **Lidjombo**, 1995.4444 - **Chutes de Matakil**, 1997.2864 - **Mboki**, 1997.2865 - **Mongoumba**, 1995.4442-3; 1995.5615 - **Ngotto**, 1997.2866-8; 1997.3488 - **Ouazoua**, 1997.2870 - **Sangba**, 1997.2871 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1997.2872-7 - **Zimba**, 1992.4751; 1992.4754; 1995.4447-60; 1997.2878-81; 1997.3475; 1997.3478; 1997.3483; 1997.3486-7; 1997.3489-92; 1997.3495; 1997.3498; 1997.3502.

Remarks: The genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger, 1826 was recently divided into four genera: *Euprepis* Wagler, 1830 for the Afro-Malagasy forms, *Eutropis* Fitzinger, 1843 for the Asiatic forms, *Mabuya* sensu stricto restricted to the neotropical forms, and *Chioninia* Gray, 1845 for the forms from the Cape Verde Islands (Mausfeld *et al.* 2002). Bauer (2003) suggested that the genus name *Euprepis* should not

be retained for Afro-Malagasy forms as the name *Trachylepis* Fitzinger, 1843 has priority; we here follow his conclusions.

Trachylepis buettneri (Matschie, 1893) [8 specimens]

Mabuya buettneri Matschie, 1893; Joger, 1990: 92.

Berberati, 1997.2916 - Kouki, 1994.8628-34.

Trachylepis maculilabris (Gray, 1845) [182 specimens]

Mabuya maculilabris (Gray, 1845) [sic]; Joger, 1990: 92.

Bambari, 1995.4461 - Bangui, 1992.4745-6; 1994.8635-6; 1997.2917-9 - Bayanga, 1995.4462-3; 1997.2920 - Belemboke, 1995.4464-75 - Berberati, 1997.2921-5; 1997.3090 - Bewiti, 1997.2927 - Boali, 1995.4476-7 - Bouar, 1997.2926; 1997.2928-9 - Brandji-Preo, 1997.2930 - Chutes de la Mbeko, 1995.4478-9 - Gbatou, 1997.2931 - Gordil, 1999.8931-82 (JLT) - Ibengue, 1995.4499-500 - Kaga-Bandoro, 1999.9155-6 - Kaga-Poungourou, 1997.2932 - Kouki, 1994.8621; 1994.8637-45; 1994.8647-53; 1997.2933-4 - Koumbala, 1999.8713 (JLT) - Lidjombo, 1995.4480-93 - Manovo, 1997.2935 - Mboki, 1997.2936-9; 1997.3248 - Mongoumba, 1995.4494 - Ndakane, 1997.3087-9 - Ndele, 1997.2940 - Ngotto, 1997.2941-6 - Ouanda-Djalle, 1997.2947-8 - Ouazoua, 1997.2949-51 - Paoua, 1995.4495-6; 1997.2952 - Salkapa, 1997.2953-4 - Sangba, 1999.8600 (JLT); 1999.8701-5 (JLT) - S.C.A.D., 1995.4497-8; 1995.5573; 1997.2955; 1997.3494 - Sibut, 1997.2956 - Yaloke, 1997.2957 - Zimba, 1992.4749-50; 1992.4752-3; 1992.4755-7; 1995.5574; 1997.3469-70; 1997.3481; 1997.3497.

Trachylepis pendeanus (Ineich & Chirio, 2000) [11 specimens]

Pende, 1992.4708; 1995.5600-9.

Trachylepis perroteti (Duméril & Bibron, 1839) [55 specimens]

Mabuya perroteti (Dum. & Bibr., 1839); Joger, 1990: 92.

Bamingui, 1997.3068 - Banga, 1997.3069 - Bangbali, 1997.2958-60; 1997.3070-1 - Bangui, 1997.2961-2 - Bayanga-Didi, 1997.3158 - Berberati, 1997.2963-4 - Bewiti, 1995.5575 - Birao, 1997.2965-6 - Bossembele, 1997.2967 - Brandji-Preo, 1997.2968 - Dahal-Azrak, 1997.2969 - Delembe, 1997.2970-4; 1997.2988 - Gordil, 1997.2976-8; 1999.8751-3 (JLT) - Kouki, 1994.8654-64 - Mboki, 1997.2975; 1997.2979 - Ndele, 1997.2980 - Ngotto, 1997.2981-7 - Ouanda-Djalle, 1997.2989 - Paoua, 1992.4709; 1995.5576 - Yaloke, 1997.3086.

Remarks: A genetic study currently in progress indicates that this taxon comprises two or three distinct species (H.-W. Herrmann pers. comm.). In the CAR, the Sudano-Saharan savanna specimens, which are small and less colourful, do certainly not belong to the same species as the specimens from Bangui, which are larger and much more colourful.

**Trachylepis polytropis* (Boulenger, 1903) [21 specimens]

Bambio, 1995.9633 - Belemboke, 1995.9634-5 - Grima, 1997.2990-1 - Ibengue, 1995.4438; 1995.9637 - Mondika, 1997.2992-3; 1997.3084-5 - Ndakane, 1991.386 - Ngotto, 1997.2994 - S.C.A.D., 1995.9636 - Zimba, 1995.5583-4; 1995.9638-41; 1997.2995.

Trachylepis quinquetaeniata (Lichtenstein, 1823) [177 specimens]

Mabuya quinquetaeniata Lichtenstein, 1823; Joger, 1990: 92.

Am-Dafok, 1997.2997-3000; 1997.3002 - Baboundji, 1997.3003-4 - Bambari, 1995.5585-7; 1997.3005-7 - Bangbali, 1997.3008-9 - Bangui, 1992.4744; 1997.3010-1 - Birao, 1997.3012 - Boali, 1995.5588-92 - Bossangoa, 1992.4704-6 - Bossembele, 1997.3013-5 - Bouar, 1997.3016-21; 1997.3468 - Brandja, 1999.8750 (JLT) - Brandji-Preo, 1997.3022-5 - Dahal-Azrak, 1997.3026-7 - Damara, 1997.3028 - Delembe, 1997.3029-32 - Gordil, 1997.3033-6; 1999.8771-90 (JLT) - Kaga-Bandoro, 1999.9171 - Kaga-Nze, 1997.3037-8 - Kaga-Poungourou, 1997.3039-41 - Koumbala, 1999.8826 (JLT) - Kouki, 1994.8666-80; 1994.8682 - Koumbala, 1997.3042-3; 1999.8714 (JLT) - La

Gounda, 1994.8681; 1999.8841-77 (JLT) - **Manovo**, 1997.3044-5 - **Mboki**, 1997.3046-51; 1997.3249 - **Ndele**, 1997.3052-4 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1997.3055-6 - **Ouazoua**, 1997.3057 - **Paoua**, 1992.4710-4; 1995.5593-4 - **Pende**, 1995.5595-7 - **Sangba**, 1997.3058-9; 1999.8598-9 (JLT) - **Sibut**, 1997.3060-1 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1997.3062-5 - **Yaloke**, 1997.3066-7 - **Zimba**, 1995.5598-9 - **No locality**, 1997.3471.

***Trachylepis sp. 1 [59 specimens]**

Baboundji, 1997.2882 - **Beleboke**, 1997.3186-7 - **Grima**, 1997.2883 - **Ibengue**, 1995.4445; 1997.2893-7; 1997.2901 - **Kpoka**, 1997.2863 - **Mongoumba**, 1995.4439-41 - **Ndakane**, 1997.2885 - **Ngotto**, 1997.2869; 1997.2886 - **Ouazoua**, 1997.2887 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1997.2888-92; 1997.2898-900; 1997.2902; 1997.3496 - **Zimba**, 1995.4446; 1995.5577-82; 1997.2903-15; 1997.2996; 1997.3474; 1997.3477; 1997.3479-80; 1997.3482; 1997.3484-5; 1997.3500-1.

Remarks: This forest undergrowth species reaches a larger size than *T. affinis* (max snout-vent length 85 mm, versus 78 mm for *T. affinis*) and has distinctive colouration (transverse black waves on the back like *T. polytropis*, versus back uniformly brown for *T. affinis*, belly green versus white, yellow or orange for *T. affinis*, and soles of the feet black versus white for *T. affinis*). *T. affinis* is much more riparian and nearly always found beneath water contrary to *Trachylepis sp. 1* which is found at ground level, dead leaves or at low elevation on tree trunks. A genetic analysis showed that it is clearly differentiated from *T. affinis* (Mausfeld pers. comm.). This species will be the subject of a separate description.

***Trachylepis sp. 2 [20 specimens]**

Bambio, 1997.3072-3 - **Beleboke**, 1995.5610-4; 1997.3464-7 - **Kpoka**, 1997.3075 - **Mondika**, 1997.3076-7 - **Ndakane**, 1997.3078 - **Ouazoua**, 1997.3079-80 - **Salkapa**, 1997.3081 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1997.3082 - **Zimba**, 1997.3083.

Remarks: This large, strictly riparian species is closely related to *T. polytropis*, but is clearly distinguished by its colouration (back uniformly pale copper-brown versus chocolate brown with transversal black waves for *T. polytropis*, belly bright yellow

versus green for *T. polytropis*) and the form of its tail (section laterally flattened, versus circular for *T. polytropis*). It will be the subject of a separate description. A genetic analysis showed that it is clearly differentiated from *T. polytropis* (Mausfeld pers. comm.).

VARANIDAE [24 specimens]

***Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792) [8 specimens]**

Varanus exanthematicus (Bosc, 1792); Joger, 1990: 93.

Am-Dafok, 1997.3159 - **Damara**, 1994.8707 - **Delembe**, 1999.8878 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.8706 - **Paoua**, 1995.5630-1 - **Seko**, 1997.3160 - **No locality**, 1997.3188.

***Varanus niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1766) [5 specimens]**

Varanus niloticus (Linnaeus, 1766); Joger, 1990: 93 [part.].

Am-Dafok, 1997.3161 - **Delembe**, 1999.8879 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.8708 - **Mboki**, 1997.3163-4.

****Varanus ornatus* (Daudin, 1803) [11 specimens]**

Varanus niloticus (Linnaeus, 1766); Joger, 1990: 93 [part.].

Bangui, 1997.3162 - **Ibengue**, 1997.3165 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.5632; 1997.3166-7 - **Seko**, 1995.5633 - **Zimba**, 1992.4760-1; 1994.8709-10; 1997.3168.

SQUAMATA, AMPHISBAENIA [38 specimens]

AMPHISBAENIDAE [38 specimens]

***Cynisca leucura* (Duméril & Bibron, 1839) [38 specimens]**

Cynisca leucura (Dum. & Bibr., 1839); Joger, 1990: 93.

Bamingui, 1997.3169-70 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8727 - **Kouki**, 1992.4699; 1994.8711-26; 1995.5634-48 - **Paoua**, 1995.5649-50 - **Manovo**, 1997.3536.

SQUAMATA, SERPENTES [2930 specimens]**TYPHLOPIDAE [118 specimens]*****Letheobia debilis* (Joger, 1990) [4 specimens]**

Rhinotyphlops debilis Joger, 1990: 93.

Bangui, Lycée Boganda, 1991.377 - Bangui, colline, 1991.378 - Bangui, 1997.3196 - Mboki, 1997.3195.

Remarks: Broadley & Wallach (2000) revived the genus *Letheobia* Cope, 1869 for the species of Roux-Estève's (1974) *Rhinotyphlops* Group VI. A review of the genus is in preparation (Broadley pers. comm.)

***Letheobia decorosa* (Buchholz & W. Peters, 1875)**

Typhlops decorosus (Buchholz & Peters, 1879); Joger, 1990: 95.

Remarks: We did not collect this species during our field surveys, but one specimen from Bania, near Berberati, is found in the Paris Museum collection: 1931.80 (Roux-Estève 1974). We therefore include this species in the biogeographic analysis.

***Letheobia rufescens* (Chabanaud, 1916) [6 specimens]**

Rhinotyphlops rufescens (Chabanaud, 1916); Joger, 1990: 95.

Bangui, colline, 1991.379 - Bangui, Ouango, 1997.3198 - Kouki, 1997.3194 - Ouazoua, 1997.3197 - Sangba, 1995.9605-6 (JLT).

***Letheobia wittei* (Mocquard, 1897)**

(*Rhinotyphlops wittei*); Joger, 1990: 95.

Remarks: Joger (1990) lists this species, but we did not find it during our surveys at Libengué (Congolesse border). It is nevertheless included in the biogeographic analyses.

****Letheobia* sp.1 [1 specimen]**

La Gounda, 1992.4621.

Remarks: This species will be described in due course (Wallach, Chirio & Ineich in prep.).

Letheobia sp.2 (*incertae cedis*) [1 specimen in the process of shedding]

Brandja, 1998.268.

****Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803) [1 specimen]**

Bangui (marché du P.K.5), 1996.6760.

Remarks: This species was probably introduced accidentally by humans (Chirio & Ineich 1997), as was the case in Cameroon (Roux-Estève 1974).

***Rhinotyphlops angolensis* (Bocage, 1866) [8 specimens]**

Typhlops angolensis (Bocage, 1866); Joger, 1990: 95.

Banga, 1997.3141 - Bohou, 1998.269 (JLT) - Brandja, 1998.270 (JLT) - Ouazoua, 1997.3143; 1997.3199-200 - Sangba, 1995.9608 (JLT); 1998.271 (JLT).

****Rhinotyphlops congestus* (Duméril & Bibron, 1844) [7 specimens]**

Bagandou, 1997.3145 - Belemboke, 1997.3459 - Faranza, 8 km from Ouazoua, 1997.3147 - Ibengue, 1997.3148; 1997.3150 - Ouazoua, 1997.3146 - SCAD, 1997.3149.

Remarks: All these specimens belong to the "marbled" form described by Roux-Estève (1974).

***Rhinotyphlops lineolatus lineolatus* (Jan, 1864) [12 specimens]**

Typhlops lineolatus (Jan, 1864); Joger 1990: 95.

Baboundji, 1997.3121 - Berberati, 1997.3122-4 - Bohou, 1998.264 (JLT) - Brandja, 1998.265 (JLT) - Kembé, 1992.4620 - Kouki, 1997.3125-8 - Mboki, 1997.3129 - Sangba, 1999.8737 (JLT) - No locality, 1992.4726.

Remarks: Two additional specimens with only field tags (452 from Boali and 1471I from Berberati) are in pre-molting condition and are here only tentatively assigned to that species.

***Rhinotyphlops punctatus* (Leach, 1819) [59 specimens]**

Typhlops punctatus (Leach, 1819); Joger, 1990: 95.

Bambari, 1997.3130 - **Bangui, colline**, 1991.383-4; 1997.3131 - **Bangui, Lycée Pie XII**, 1991.382 - **Beleboke**, 1997.3132 - **Bossangoa**, 1997.3133-4 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9114-7 - **Kouki**, 1997.3135-40 - **Faranza, 8 Km de Ouazoua**, 1997.3209 - **La Gounda**, 1997.3202 - **Manovo**, 1999.8719 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.9619; 1997.3203-6 - **Ngotto**, 1997.3207 - **Ouazoua**, 1997.3208 - **Paoua**, 1997.3210-1 - **Sangba**, 1995.9610-8 (JLT); 1997.3458; 1998.272-6 (JLT) - **6 K Sangba**, 1999-8597 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1997.3212-6 - **Soumba**, 1997.3231 - **PK 130 de la route Bangui-Sibut**, 1992.4619 - **Zimba**, 1997.3217-20.

Remarks: All these specimens belong to the “marbled” form described by Roux-Estève (1974).

***Rhinotyphlops steinhausi* (F. Werner, 1909) [12 specimens]**

Typhlops steinhausi (Werner, 1909); Joger, 1990: 95.

Berberati, 1997.3222-7 - **Bossebele**, 1997.3142 - **Ibengue**, 1997.3144 - **Kouki**, 1997.3201 - **Ngotto**, 1997.3228 - **SCAD**, 1997.3229-30.

****Rhinotyphlops* sp.1 [3 specimens]**

Kouki, 1997.3221 - **Sangba**, 1995.9607 (JLT); 1995.9609 (JLT).

Remarks: These specimens have first been identified as *T. schmidti* (Laurent, 1956) by Wallach, but he now thinks that this may be an undescribed sibling species, the nearest populations of *T. schmidti* being in Katanga, south of the Congo forest block, 1500 km to the south-east (Wallach pers. comm.).

LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE [46 specimens]

****Leptotyphlops adleri* (Hahn & Wallach, 1998) [1 specimen]**

Birao, 1998.267.

Remarks: This species is also known from Senegal, Chad and Cameroon (Trape 2003).

****Leptotyphlops narirostris* (W. Peters, 1867) [1 specimen]**

Sangba, 1998.266.

***Leptotyphlops sundewalli* (Jan, 1861) [9 specimens]**

Leptotyphlops sundewalli (Jan, 1861); Joger, 1990: 93.

Bayanga, 1997.3190 - **Kouki**, 1992.4698; 1997.3191-3 - **Mission catholique de Sibut**, 1991.380 - **Zimba**, 1991.381; 1995.9620; 1997.3189.

****Leptotyphlops* sp. [35 specimens]**

Am-Dafok, 1997.3346 - **Bamingui**, 1997.3347 - **10 km Sud de Bamingui**, 1997.3348 - **affleurement de latérite au Sud de Bangoran**, 1997.3349 - **Birao**, 1997.3344-5 - **Kouki**, 1994.3320; 1997.3350-76.

Remarks: This species will be described separately (Wallach, Chirio & Ineich in prep.).

BOIDAE [46 specimens]

***Calabaria reinhardtii* (Schlegel, 1848) [12 specimens]**

Calabaria reinhardtii (Schlegel, 1848); Joger, 1990: 93.

Beleboke, 1996.6411 - **Ibengue**, 1996.6409 - **Mbaiki**, 1991.304 - **Nola**, 1996.6412 - **Pont de la Lesse**, 1994.3241 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.3242-3; 1996.6406-8; 1996.6410 - **No locality**, 1996.6413.

***Eryx muelleri (Boulenger, 1892) [2 specimens]**

Dahal-Azrak, 1997.3538 (shedded skin only) - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.6414.

Python regius (Shaw, 1802) [9 specimens]

Python regius (Shaw, 1802); Joger, 1990: 93.

Bossangoa, 1994.7349-50 - **Kouki**, 1994.3244-5; 1994.7351 - **Paoua**, 1994.3246; 1994.7352 - **Seko**, 1994.3247 - **Soumba (ouest de Bossangoa)**, 1994.3248.

Python sebae (Gmelin, 1789) [23 specimens]

Python sebae (Gmelin, 1789); Joger, 1990: 93.

Bangui, 1996.6415-8; 1996.6539 - **Bayanga**, 1992.4597 - **Berberati**, 1996.6419 - **Boali**, 1996.6421-3 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.8989 - **Kouki**, 1996.6424 - **Mboki**, 1996.6425 - **Nola**, 1996.6420 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.6426-30 - **Soumba (ouest de Bossangoa)**, 1994.3249 - **Zimba**, 1994.7354; 1996.6431 - **No locality**, 1994.7353.

COLUBRIDAE [1886 specimens]**Boiga blandingii (Hallowell, 1844) [23 specimens]**

Boiga blandingii (Hallowell, 1844); Joger, 1990: 95.

Bambari, 1994.3250-1 - **Bangui**, 1994.3252-3; 1996.6473-4 - **Bayanga**, 1996.6475 - **Berberati**, 1994.3254; 1994.7368; 1996.6476 - **Damara**, 1991.365 - **Mboki**, 1994.3255 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6477-9 - **Sangba**, 1999.8798 (JLT); 1999.8804-5 (JLT) - **Zimba**, 1994.3256; 1994.7369; 1996.6472; 1996.6480 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.7370.

Remarks: *Toxicodryas* Hallowell, 1857 was revived by Welch (1982) because he thought that the two African species of *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826 were not congeneric with the Asian ones. Rasmussen (1979) compared skulls and the internal morphology of 16 Asiatic species with *B. blandingii* and *B. pulverulenta* and considered them congeneric. He found *Boiga* to be sister genera to a clade including *Crotaphopeltis* Fitzinger, 1843, *Chamaetortus* Günther, 1864 and *Dipsadoboa* Günther, 1858.

Boiga pulverulenta (Fischer, 1856) [13 specimens]

Boiga pulverulenta (Fischer, 1856); Joger, 1990: 95.

Bangui, 1992.4556; 1994.7371 - **Berberati**, 1996.6482 - **Boali**, 1996.6483 - **Sangba**, 1996.7560-1 (JLT); 1999.8733 (JLT); 1999.8806-7 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.3257; 1996.6484-6.

Bothrophthalmus lineatus (W. Peters, 1863) [7 specimens]

Bothrophthalmus lineatus (Peters, 1863); Joger, 1990: 95.

Bambio, 1996.6487 - **Belemboke**, 1996.6488 - **Ibengue**, 1996.6491-2 - **Mboki**, 1996.6489 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.3258; 1996.6490.

Remarks: In Cameroon and the People's Republic of Congo (J.-F. Trape pers. comm.), one finds the form with brown ventral coloration (*Bothrophthalmus brunneus*), whereas our specimens from the CAR have bright red ventral colouration and the red dorsal stripes characteristic of *B. lineatus*.

Buhome depressiceps (F. Werner, 1897)

Geodipsas depressiceps (Werner, 1897); Joger, 1990: 96.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 96) noted that Welch (1982) mentioned this species occurring in the CAR but he questioned the accuracy of this record. We did not find this snake during our extensive field surveys and, in Cameroon, this species appears to be limited to the western part of the country. We therefore do not include it in the list of reptiles occurring in the CAR. Since the work of Ziegler *et al.* (1997) the African species of the former genus *Geodipsas* Boulenger, 1896 have been assigned to the new genus *Buhome* Ziegler *et al.*, 1997; whereas *Geodipsas [sensu stricto]* Boulenger, 1896 is reserved for Malagasy species.

Chamaelycus fasciatus (Günther, 1858) [1 specimen]

Chamaelycus fasciatus (Günther, 1858); Joger, 1990: 95.

Mondika, 1996.6493.

***Crotaphopeltis degeni (Boulenger, 1906) [21 specimens]**

Am-Dafok, 1996.6494; 1997.3523-8; 1998.229 (JLT); 1998.230 (JLT) (exchanged with Zoological Museum of Copenhagen in December 1998), 1998.231-3 (JLT); 1998.234 (JLT) (exchanged with Zoological Museum of Copenhagen in December 1998), 1998.235-9 (JLT) - **Birao**, 1997.3529-30 - **Dahal-Azrak**, 1996.6495.

Remarks: These specimens were the subject of a separate study (Rasmussen *et al.* 2000).

***Crotaphopeltis hippocrepis (Reinhardt, 1843) [26 specimens]**

Bangbali, 1997.3522 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.7392; 1994.7401 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1998.251 - **Kouki**, 1994.3273-6; 1994.3278-83; 1994.7410-1; 1994.7419; 1994.7423-4; 1994.7427; 1994.7437-8; 1994.7442 - **Seko**, 1996.6531-2 - **SOGESCA (sud de Bambari)**, 1992.4618.

Remarks: These specimens were the subject of a separate study (Rasmussen *et al.* 2000).

Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia (Laurenti, 1768) [240 specimens]

Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia (Laurenti, 1768); Joger, 1990: 95.

Am-Dafok, 1996.6496 - **Bambari**, 1992.4651-3; 1994.3259; 1997.3511 - **Bamingui**, 1997.3512 - **Banga**, 1997.3513 - **Bangbali**, 1996.6497 - **Bangui**, 1991.317; 1992.4626; 1994.7377-80 - **Bayanga**, 1991.314; 1996.6498 - **Belemboke**, 1994.3260-1; 1996.6499-504; 1997.3514-5 - **Berberati**, 1994.3262-5; 1994.7381-3; 1996.6505-6; 1997.3516 - **Birao**, 1994.3266-7; 1996.3519-20; 1996.6507-12; 1997.3517-8 - **Boali**, 1992.4588; 1994.3268-71; 1994.7384-7; 1996.6513 - **Bohou**, 1998.224 (JLT) - **Bossangoa**, 1992.4578; 1994.7388-91; 1994.7393-400; 1994.7402-4 - **Bossebele**, 1997.3521 - **Brandji-Preo**, 1996.6514 - **Bria**, 1996.6515 -

Dahal-Azrak, 1996.6516-7 - **Delembe**, 1996.6518-21; 1998.225 (JLT) - **Gamboula**, 1994.3272 - **Gordil**, 1996.6522; 1998.223; 1998.227-8 (JLT); 1998.489 (JLT) - **Kaga-Bandoro**, **1998.250**; 1998.252-3 - **Kouki**, 1992.4687; 1994.3277; 1994.3284-7; 1994.7405-9; 1994.7412-8; 1994.7420-2; 1994.7425-6; 1994.7428-36; 1994.7439-41; 1994.7443-6 - **La Gounda**, 1992.4576-7; 1994.7447-50; 1998.226 (JLT) - **Manovo**, 1998.490 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1994.3288; 1994.3327 - **Ndele**, 1996.6523-4 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6525-7 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.6528 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6529 - **Paoua**, 1992.4583; 1992.4589-92; 1994.3289-93; 1994.7451-64 - **Route de Possel (pk 170; road from Bangui to Sibut, near the Possel junction)**, 1992.4580 - **Sangba**, 1994.3328; 1994.3516; 1994.8160 (JLT); 1996.6530; 1996.6535-8; 1997.3505-6; 1997.3509; 1997.3548; 1997.3597-602 (JLT); 1998.240-9 (JLT); 1998.491-2 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1994.3294-5; 1996.6533 - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4587 - **Soumba (ouest de Bossangoa)**, 1994.3296-8 - **Zimba**, 1991.313; 1992.4579; 1992.4581-2; 1992.4584-6; 1992.4633-9; 1994.3299-306; 1994.7465-8; 1996.6534.

Remarks: These specimens were the subject of a separate study (Rasmussen *et al.* 2000).

Dasypeltis fasciata (A. Smith, 1849) [38 specimens]

Dasypeltis fasciata (A. Smith), 1849; Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1994.7988; 1996.6560 - **Bayanga**, 1994.3307-8 - **Belemboke**, 1996.6540 - **Berberati**, 1994.3309; 1996.6541 - **Ibengue**, 1994.7991-2; 1996.6554 - **Kouki**, 1994.7989-90 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6542-3 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6544-5 - **Paoua**, 1994.8003 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.3310-2; 1996.6546-53 - **Zimba**, 1992.4598-9; 1994.3313-4; 1994.7993; 1996.6555-9.

Dasypeltis scabra (Linnaeus, 1758) [34 specimens]

Dasypeltis scabra (Linnaeus, 1758); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1994.3315; 1994.7994; 1996.6572 - **Berberati**, 1994.3317; 1996.6561 - **Boali**, 1994.3318 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.7995-7 - **Delembe**,

1999.9111 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.3319; 1994.3321; 1994.7998-8002 - **Manovo**, 1999.8722 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1994.3322-4 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.6562 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6563-5 - **Paoua**, 1994.3325-6 - **Sangba**, 1996.7571 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.6571 - **Seko**, 1996.6566-9 - **Zimba**, 1996.6570.

Dipsadoboa duchesnei (Boulenger, 1901) [1 specimen]

Dipsadoboa duchesnei (Boulenger, 1901); Joger, 1990: 96.

Belemboke, 1996.6573.

Dipsadoboa unicolor (Günther, 1858)

Dipsadoboa unicolor (Günther, 1858); Joger, 1990: 96.

Remarks: Roux-Estève (1965) mentions the presence of this species from Boukoko; we did not find it during our surveys. We did however find it near the CAR border in south-eastern Cameroon (Chirio & LeBreton in press). We therefore include this species in our biogeographic analysis.

**Dipsadoboa viridis viridis* (W. Peters, 1869) [1 specimen]

Ibengue, 1995.9669.

**Dipsadoboa weileri* (Lindholm, 1905) [11 specimens]

Belemboke, 1996.6574; 1997.3510 - **Mondika**, 1996.6576 - **Nola**, 1996.6575 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.3329-30; 1997.3507 - **SOGESCA**, 1991.327 - **Zimba**, 1996.6577-8 - **No locality**, 1997.3508.

Dispholidus typus (A. Smith, 1829) [44 specimens]

Dispholidus typus (Smith, 1829); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1992.4654; 1994.3331 - **Bangui**, 1991.318; 1994.8004 - **Berberati**, 1994.3332-4; 1994.8005-6; 1996.6579-80 - **Boali**, 1996.6581 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.3335-6; 1994.8007-9 - **Bossemptele**, 1992.4554 - **Bouar**, 1994.3337 - **Kouki**, 1994.3338; 1994.8011; 1996.6582 - **Mboki**,

1994.3339-41 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6583 - **Paoua**, 1994.3342-7; 1994.8012-5 - **Possel**, 1991.326; 1992.4553; 1992.4555 - **Sangba**, 1999.8594 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1994.3348 - **Soumba (west of Bossangoa)**, 1994.3349 - **Yaloke**, 1994.8010; 1996.6584.

Dromophis lineatus (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854) [57 specimens]

Dromophis lineatus (Dum. & Bibr., 1854); Joger, 1990: 96.

Banga, 1996.6585-6 - **Bangui**, 1991.354; 1992.4603; 1994.8050; 1996.6587-8 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8031-49 - **Grima**, 1996.6589 - **Kouki**, 1994.8051-6 - **La Gounda**, 1992.4601-2; 1994.8057; 1996.6590; 1996.6864 - **Manovo**, 1996.6591 - **Ndakane**, 1996.6592 - **Ndele**, 1996.6593 - **Paoua**, 1994.3350-1; 1994.8058-61 - **Zimba**, 1992.4600; 1994.3352-5; 1994.8062-5 - **No locality**, 1996.6594.

Dromophis praeornatus gribinguiensis (Angel, 1921) [4 specimens]

Dromophis praeornatus (Schlegel, 1837); Joger, 1990: 96.

Birao, 1996.6595 - **Kouki**, 1994.3356; 1996.6596 - **Paoua**, 1994.3357.

Remarks: We follow Joger (1990) in assigning the form found in the CAR to the subspecies *D. p. gribinguiensis* Angel, 1921.

Gonionotophis grantii (Günther, 1863) [8 specimens]

Gonionotophis grantii (Günther, 1863); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1994.3375; 1996.6639 - **Boali**, 1994.3376 - **Kouki**, 1994.3377; 1994.8072-5.

Grayia caesar (Günther, 1863) [3 specimens]

Grayia caesar (Günther, 1863); Joger, 1990: 96.

Belemboke, 1996.6640-1 - **Berberati**, 1994.8076.

****Grayia ornata* (Bocage, 1866) [23 specimens]**

Bagandou, 1994.3379 - **Bangui**, 1994.3380; 1994.8078; 1995.9670-5; 1995.9678-9; 1996.6642-3 - **Belemboke**, 1994.3382 - **Berberati**, 1994.3383-4; 1994.8079; 1995.9676-7 - **Ibengue**, 1994.3385 - **Ndakane**, 1996.6644 - **Route de Mbaiki**, 1994.8080 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.9692.

***Grayia smythii* (Leach, 1812) [51 specimens]**

Grayia smythii (Leach, 1812); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1991.339 - **Bangui**, 1991.321; 1991.372; 1994.8081; 1994.3386; 1996.6432-5 - **Boali**, 1994.3387-92; 1994.8082; 1996.6436-9 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8083 - **Bria**, 1996.6440 - **Kouki**, 1994.8084 - **Manovo**, 1999.8741 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1994.3393-7 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6441-3 - **Paoua**, 1994.3398-400 - **Sangba**, 1996.6444; 1999.8768; 1999.8796 (JLT); 1999.9110 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3401-2; 1996.6445-7 - **Seko**, 1995.3403-5; 1996.6448 - **Soumba (west of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3406-7 - **Zimba**, 1996.6449.

***Grayia tholloni* (Mocquard, 1897) [8 specimens]**

Grayia tholloni (Mocquard, 1897); Joger, 1990: 96.

Kouki, 1994.8085 - **La Gounda**, 1996.6450-2 - **Paoua**, 1994.3378; 1994.8077 - **Sangba**, 1999.9112-3 (JLT).

***Hapsidophrys lineatus* (Fischer, 1856) [17 specimens]**

Hapsidophrys lineatus (Fischer, 1856); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambio, 1996.6638 - **Banga**, 1996.6645 - **Belemboke**, 1996.6646-7 - **Berberati**, 1994.2341; 1994.8086 - **Ibengue**, 1994.8088; 1995.3410; 1996.6650 - **Mboki**, 1995.3409 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6648 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6649 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.8087; 1995.3411-3; 1996.6637.

***Hapsidophrys smaragdina* (Schlegel, 1837) [78 specimens]**

Gastropyxis smaragdina (Schlegel, 1837); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bagandou, 1994.3358 - **Bambari**, 1992.4649-50 - **Bangui**, 1991.311; 1992.4574; 1992.4627; 1994.3359; 1994.8066-7; 1996.6597 - **Bayanga**, 1991.338; 1992.4569-71; 1994.3360; 1996.6598-601 - **Belemboke**, 1994.3361; 1996.6602-4 - **Berberati**, 1994.3362; 1994.8068; 1996.6605 - **Boali**, 1994.3363-4; 1996.6606 - **Gamboula**, 1994.3365 - **Grima**, 1996.6607-10 - **Ibengue**, 1994.3370; 1996.6628 - **Mboki**, 1994.3366; 1996.6611 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6612-6 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6617-9 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.3367-9; 1994.3371; 1994.3549; 1996.6620-7; 1996.6651 - **Zimba**, 1992.4568; 1992.4572-3; 1993.3181; 1994.3373-4; 1994.8069-71; 1996.6629-36; 1996.6652.

***Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia* (Günther, 1864) [5 specimens]**

Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia (Günther, 1864); Joger, 1990: 96.

Boali, 1996.6653 - **Delembé**, 1999.9132 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.8089-91.

***Hormonotus modestus* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854) [3 specimens]**

Hormonotus modestus (Duméril & Bibron, 1854); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, colline, 1994.8092 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6654 - **Zimba**, 1996.6655.

***Hydraethiops melanogaster* (Günther, 1872) [24 specimens]**

Hydraethiops melanogaster (Günther, 1872); Joger, 1990: 96.

Belemboke, 1995.3414-20; 1996.6656-7 - **Berberati**, 1994.8; 1994.3329-30; 1994.8093; 1995.3421; 1996.6658 - **Ibengue**, 1996.6665 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6659 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6660-4 - **Seko**, 1995.3422-3.

***Lamprophis fuliginosus* (Boie, 1827) [121 specimens]**

Lamprophis fuliginosus (Boie, 1827); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1991.362; 1992.4660-2 - **Bangui**, 1991.360-1; 1992.4625; 1994.8094-100; 1995.3424-8; 1996.6669-73 - **Berberati**, 1994.8101-3; 1995.3429-32; 1996.6674-7 - **Boali**, 1992.4563; 1995.3433 - **Bohou**, 1999.8803 (JLT) - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8104-10 - **Bossebele**, 1996.6687 - **Brandja**, 1999.8996-7 (JLT) - **Bria**, 1996.6688 - **Delembe**, 1996.6689 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3434 - **Gordil**, 1999.8990 (JLT) - **Grima**, 1996.6690 - **Kouki**, 1994.8111-24; 1995.3435-8 - **Manovo**, 1999.8720-1 (JLT); 1999.9108-9 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3439-43; 1996.6691-4 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6695-8 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.6699 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6700-5 - **Paoua**, 1995.3444-6 - **Sangba**, 1996.7554-6 (JLT); 1999.8728-31 (JLT); 1999.8808-13 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3447; 1996.6706 - **Sibut**, 1992.4565; 1996.6707 - **Zimba**, 1992.4564; 1992.4566; 1992.4575; 1994.8125-6; 1996.6708.

Lamprophis lineatus (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854) [90 specimens]

Lamprophis lineatus (Duméril & Bibron 1854); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1991.363; 1992.4663-4665; 1995.3448-9; 1996.6709-10 - **Bangbali**, 1996.6711-2 - **Bangui**, 1992.4567; 1995.3450 - **Boali**, 1996.6713 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8127-8 - **Bossebele**, 1996.6714 - **Bria**, 1996.6715 - **Damara**, 1991.364 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9104-5 - **Kouki**, 1992.4692; 1994.8129-59; 1994.8161-6; 1995.3451-2 - **La Gounda**, 1994.8167; 1999.8987 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3453-6; 1996.6716-21 - **Ndele**, 1996.6722 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6723-4 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6725-6 - **Paoua**, 1995.3457 - **Sangba**, 1996.6727-8; 1999.8732 (JLT); 1999.8998-9 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3458-61; 1996.6729-31.

Lamprophis olivaceus (A. Duméril, 1856) [19 specimens]

Lamprophis olivaceus (Duméril, 1856); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambio, 1996.6732 - **Bayanga**, 1996.6733-7 - **Ibengue**, 1996.6738; 1996.6745 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3462-6; 1996.6739-44.

**Lamprophis sp.* [12 specimens]

Am-Dafok, 1996.6666-8 - **Birao**, 1996.6678-86.

Remarks: The Sudano-Saharan savanna specimens are distinguishable from *L. fuliginosus* in the rest of the country by a pale beige colouration (grey-black in *L. fuliginosus*), and by having usually a greater number of ventral and subcaudal scales: in our region, 215-219 ventral plates for males and 228-237 for females, versus 185-214 for *L. fuliginosus* males and 208-228 for *L. fuliginosus* females; 59-68 subcaudals for males and 48-52 for females, versus 48-57 for *L. fuliginosus* males and 41-48 for *L. fuliginosus* females. We therefore list them as a separate taxon, pending more detailed taxonomic investigations.

Lycophidion capense (A. Smith, 1831) [54 specimens]

Lycophidion capense (Smith, 1831); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1992.4642-75 - **Bangui**, 1994.7372 - **Berberati**, 1996.6751-2 - **Bossebele**, 1996.6754 - **Kouki**, 1994.7374-6; 1994.8172-4; 1995.3477; 1995.3479; 1995.3483-4; 1996.6755 - **Mboki**, 1996.6756 - **Ouanda-Djalle**, 1996.6757 - **Sangba**, 1997.3604 (JLT); 1997.3606 - **Seko**, 1996.6759.

**Lycophidion depressirostre* (Laurent, 1968) [6 specimens]

Bamingui, 1996.6746 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.7373 - **Manovo**, 1999.9130 (JLT) - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6758 - **Seko**, 1995.3467; 1996.6804.

Lycophidion irroratum (Leach, 1829) [5 specimens]

Lycophidion irroratum (Leach, 1829); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1996.6766-7 - **Boali**, 1994.8175 - **Bouar**, 1994.8176 - **Mboki**, 1995.3469.

**Lycophidion laterale* (Hallowell, 1857) [10 specimens]

Bangui, 1996.6769 - **Bayanga**, 1995.3470 - **Ibengue**, 1996.6775 - **Mboki**, 1995.3471 -

Mondika, 1996.6770 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6771-4 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.6768.

Lycophidion semicinctum (**Duméril, Bibron, & Duméril, 1854**) [53 specimens]

Lycophidion semicinctum; Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1991.342; 1992.4643-4; 1992.4676 - **Bangui**, 1991.322-4; 1991.341; 1992.4596; 1992.4628; 1994.8169-70; 1995.3472; 1996.6747-50 - **Boali**, 1996.6803 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8171; 1994.8177-8 - **Brandja**, 1999.9134 (JLT) - **Delembe**, 1999.9133 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.8179-93; 1995.3473-6; 1995.3478; 1995.3480-2 - **Sangba**, 1997.3603 (JLT); 1999.8590 (JLT); 1999.8734 (JLT) - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4594-5 - **Soumba (West of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3468 - **Yaloke**, 1996.6761.

Lycophidion taylori* (Broadley & Hughes, 1993**) [1 specimen]

Birao, 1996.6753.

Remarks: This specimen is referable to *L. taylori* and thus makes a link with Chad populations (a specimen (MNHN 9893) from Abéché was recorded by Broadley and Hughes (1993: 13)).

Mehelya capensis capensis* (A. Smith, 1847**) [12 specimens]

73 km north of Bangui, 1991.310; 1995.3485-7; 1996.6764 - **Boali**, 1995.3488 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8194 - **Kouki**, 1994.8195 - **La Gounda**, 1996.6762 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6763 - **Route de Mbaiki**, 1995.3489 - **Seko**, 1995.3490.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 96) mentioned only the subspecies *M. capensis savorgnani* (Mocquard, 1887) that we here consider as a valid species; the six specimens mentioned here differ from our specimens of *M. savorgnani* by colour pattern, habitat and ventral count; we temporarily put them in this subspecies, waiting for new work about this genus.

Mehelya crossi (**Boulenger, 1895**)

Mehelya crossi (Boulenger, 1895); Joger, 1990: 96.

Remarks: We did not find this species in our survey, but its occurrence in the CAR is mentioned by Joger (1990: 96). This was based on a specimen from Bozo, preserved in the Bonn Museum (ZFMK) in Germany. We therefore include *M. crossi* in our biogeographic analysis.

Mehelya poensis (**A. Smith, 1847**) [13 specimens]

Mehelya poensis (A. Smith, 1847); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1994.8196; 1995.3493 - **Belemboke**, 1996.6777 - **Berberati**, 1996.6776 - **Mboki**, 1995.3494 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6781 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6778-9 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3495; 1996.6780 - **Zimba**, 1992.4641; 1995.3496; 1996.6782.

Mehelya savorgnani (**Mocquard, 1887**) [4 specimens]

Mehelya capensis savorgnani (Mocquard, 1887); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambio, 1996.6765 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3491-2; 1997.3550.

Remarks: This species has several characters clearly differing it from *M. capensis capensis*. We consider it as a valid species there but the status of the CAR populations of *M. capensis* has to be carefully checked in the future.

Mehelya stenophthalmus (**Mocquard, 1887**) [22 specimens]

Mehelya stenophthalmus (Mocquard, 1887); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1991.347-8; 1995.3497 - **Bangui**, 1991.349; 1992.4667 [exchanged with D.G. Broadley (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe) in June 2000; now NMZB 16717], 1994.8197; 1996.6784-5 - **Berberati**, 1994.3372 - **Bohou**, 1999.9000-2 (JLT) - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8198 - **Bria**, 1996.6786 - **Kouki**, 1994.8199-201 [1994.8201 exchanged with D.G. Broadley (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe) in June 2000; now NMZB 16716], 1995.3498 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6787-8 - **Sangba**, 1996.6783 - **Zimba**, 1992.4672.

Meizodon coronatus (Schlegel, 1837) [4 specimens]

Meizodon coronatus (Schlegel, 1837); Joger, 1990: 96.

Mboki, 1995.3499-500 - **Sangba**, 1999.8985-6 (JLT).

**Meizodon regularis* (Fischer, 1856) [5 specimens]

Bossangoa, 1994.8202 - **Kouki**, 1994.8203 - **La Gounda**, 1992.4610 - **Paoua**, 1994.8204 - **Seko**, 1995.9680.

Natriciteres fuliginoides (Günther, 1858) [12 specimens]

Natriciteres fuliginoides (Günther, 1858); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bayanga, 1992.4607; 1995.3504 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3505; 1996.6798-9 - **Mondika**, 1996.6800 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3506-7; 1996.6801-2 - **Zimba**, 1991.328; 1992.4673.

Natriciteres olivacea (W. Peters, 1854) [18 specimens]

Natriciteres olivacea (Peters, 1854); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1992.4656 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8208 - **Bouar**, 1994.8209 - **La Gounda**, 1994.8210-2; 1999.8592 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3508 - **Zimba**, 1991.329; 1992.4608-9; 1994.8213-5; 1995.3509-10; 1996.6789-90.

Remarks: Joger (1990) mentioned a literature reference (Loveridge 1958) for this species in the former Zaïre, at Zongo. He was right in suspecting the presence of this snake in the CAR which we confirm here.

**Natriciteres variegata* (W. Peters, 1861) [6 specimens]

Berberati, 1995.3511; 1995.9682-3 - **Kouki**, 1994.8216; 1995.9684 - **Seko**, 1995.3512.

Philothamnus angolensis (Bocage, 1882) [2 specimens]

Philothamnus angolensis (Bocage, 1882); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bamingui, 1997.3385 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3513.

Philothamnus bequaerti (Schmidt, 1923) [63 specimens]

Philothamnus bequaerti (Schmidt, 1923); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bambari, 1995.3561 - **Berberati**, 1994.38; 1995.3514; 1997.3386-7 - **Birao**, 1997.3388 - **Boali**, 1994.12; 1994.24; 1997.3389 - **Bossangoa**, 1992.4797; 1994.3; 1994.9; 1994.22; 1994.33 - **Gordil**, 1999.8991 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1992.4793-5; 1994.1-2; 1994.4-7; 1994.10-1; 1994.14-21; 1994.23; 1994.37; 1994.50; 1995.3515-20 - **La Gounda**, 1992.4809; 1994.8; 1997.3390-1 - **Mboki**, 1995.3521-2; 1997.3392-6 - **Ngotto**, 1997.3397 - **Paoua**, 1994.13 - **Sangba**, 1997.3398; 1999.9119 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3523 - **Soumba (West of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3524-5 - **Zimba**, 1992.4799; 1997.3399.

Philothamnus carinatus (Andersson, 1901) [32 specimens]

Philothamnus carinatus (Andersson, 1901); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1995.3526; 1996.6791 - **Bayanga**, 1992.4801; 1995.3527-8 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3529; 1997.3400 - **Berberati**, 1995.3544 - **Grima**, 1996.6792-6 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3530; 1997.3402 - **Mondika**, 1996.6797 - **Ngotto**, 1997.3401 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.31-2; 1995.3531-4 - **Zimba**, 1991.337; 1992.4803-5; 1994.29; 1995.3535; 1997.3403-5.

Philothamnus heterodermus (Hallowell, 1857) [44 specimens]

Philothamnus heterodermus (Hallowell, 1857); Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1995.3536-40; 1997.3406-7; 1997.3426 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3541; 1997.3408-9 - **Berberati**, 1995.3542-3; 1995.3545-6; 1997.3410-5 - **Boali**, 1997.3416 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3547 - **Grima**, 1997.3417 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3548 - **Ngotto**,

1997.3418 - **Ouazoua**, 1997.3419-20 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3549-50; 1997.3421-3 - **Zimba**, 1992.4810; 1994.25-8; 1994.30; 1994.49; 1997.3424-5 - **No locality**, 1997.3546-7.

****Philothamnus heterolepidotus* (Günther, 1863) [6 specimens]**

Bangui, 1995.9685 - **Birao**, 1995.9686 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.35-6 - **Paoua**, 1992.4808; 1994.34.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 96) noted a reference (Sternfeld 1917) indicating the occurrence of this species in the former Zaïre, at Duma. He was right in suspecting its occurrence in the CAR, which we confirm here.

***Philothamnus hughesi* Trape & Roux-Estève, 1990 [14 specimens]**

Philothamnus hoplogaster (Günther, 1863); Roux-Estève, 1965; Joger, 1990: 96.

Bangui, 1991.375 - **Berberati**, 1997.3427-9 - **Bossemele**, 1995.3551 - **Kouki**, 1994.39 - **Manovo**, 1997.2884 - **Ngotto**, 1997.3001 - **Sangba**, 1997.3605; 1999.9121 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3552-4 - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4802.

Remarks: Populations of *P. hoplogaster* from the CAR are currently assigned to *P. hughesi* (see Trape & Roux-Estève 1990).

***Philothamnus irregularis* (Leach, 1819)**

Philothamnus irregularis (Leach, 1819); Joger, 1990: 97.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 97) cited references (Loveridge 1958; Hughes 1985) that mention the presence of this snake in Chad and in the former Zaïre. He also lists this species in the CAR based on a specimen in the collection ("Gribingui region"). We were not able to find the specimen in the collection, nor was there a specimen in our recent collections, but its occurrence in the country seems probable. We therefore include it in the biogeographic analysis.

***Philothamnus nitidus* (Günther, 1863) [1 specimen]**

Philothamnus nitidus (Günther, 1863); Joger, 1990: 97.

Berberati, 1997.3430.

***Philothamnus semivariiegatus* (A. Smith, 1847) [49 specimens]**

Philothamnus semivariiegatus (A. Smith, 1847); Joger, 1990: 97.

Am-Dafok, 1997.3442 - **Bambari**, 1991.350; 1991.352; 1991.358-9; 1995.3560 - **Bangui**, 1991.333; 1991.335-6; 1991.351; 1992.4800; 1992.4807; 1994.40-1; 1994.44-7; 1995.3555-6; 1997.3431-2 - **Birao**, 1997.3433 - **Boali**, 1991.334; 1992.4806; 1997.3434 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.42; 1994.51 - **Bossemele**, 1997.3435 - **Bria**, 1997.3436-7 - **Delembe**, 1997.3438; 1999.8993-4 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1992.4796; 1994.48 - **La Gounda**, 1999.8593 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1997.3439 - **Paoua**, 1995.3557 - **Sangba**, 1997.3440; 1999.8736 (JLT); 1999.9118; 1999.9120 (JLT); 1999.9122 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3558 - **Zimba**, 1992.4798; 1994.43; 1995.3559; 1997.4341.

***Prosymna ambigua bocagii* (Boulenger, 1897) [29 specimens]**

Prosymna ambigua (Bocage, 1873); Joger, 1990: 97.

Bambari, 1991.340 - **Banga**, 1996.6810 - **Bangbali**, 1996.6811 - **Bangui**, 1991.319-20; 1994.8217-8; 1995.3562-3; 1996.6812-3 - **Belemboke**, 1996.6814 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3564-5 - **Grima**, 1996.6815 - **Kouki**, 1995.3566 - **Ndakane**, 1996.6818 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6816-7 - **Sangba**, 1999.8988 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3567 - **Zimba**, 1992.4612; 1994.8207; 1995.3568-70; 1996.6819; 1996.6821 - **No locality**, 1996.6820.

****Prosymna collaris* (Sternfeld, 1908) [1 specimen]**

Kouki, 1994.8224.

Remarks: The above individual has the colour pattern typical of this form, which we plan to resurrect

in a study of *Prosymna* Gray, 1849 from western and central Africa (Chirio, Ineich & Trape in prep.).

***Prosymna greigerti* (Mocquard, 1906) [28 specimens]**

Prosymna meleagris (Reinhardt, 1843); Joger, 1990: 97.

Am-Dafok, 1996.6822 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8219-20 - **Kouki**, 1994.8221-3; 1994.8225-34; 1995.3571-81 - **La Gounda**, 1992.4611.

***Psammodromus elegans* (Shaw, 1802) [2 specimens]**

Psammodromus elegans (Shaw, 1802); Joger, 1990: 97.

La Gounda, 1994.8235 - **Sangba**, 1997.3461.

***Psammodromus phillipsi* (Hallowell, 1844) [187 specimens]**

Psammodromus philippi [sic] (Hallowell, 1844); Joger, 1990: 97.

Bambari, 1991.331; 1991.344; 1991.356-7; 1992.4657-9; 1995.3582 - **Banga**, 1996.6823; 1996.6870 - **Bangui**, 1991.345; 1992.4557; 1992.4622; 1994.8239-53; 1994.8267; 1995.3583-6; 1995.3589; 1996.6824 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3609-10; 1996.6825-8 - **Berberati**, 1994.8254; 1995.3587; 1996.6828-9; 1996.6875 - **Boali**, 1992.4558; 1994.8255-6; 1995.3588; 1995.3632; 1996.6830; 1996.6860-1 - **Bohou**, 1999.8835 (JLT) - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8258-66; 1994.8285-7 - **Bouar**, 1994.8257 - **Bria**, 1996.6831-2; 1996.6865-8 - **Damara**, 1991.355; 1991.373; 1992.4559 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3611-3 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3590; 1996.6842-4 - **Kaga-Bandoro**, 1999.9107 - **Kouki**, 1992.4693; 1994.8236-7; 1994.8268-74; 1995.3591; 1995.3614-5 - **Manovo**, 1996.6833; 1996.6869; 1999.8717-8 (JLT); 1999.8725 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3616-9; 1996.6834-7 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6838-40 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6874 - **Paoua**, 1992.4604-5; 1994.8275-7 - **Sangba**, 1996.7576-7 (JLT); 1999.8735 (JLT); 1999.8827-9 (JLT); 1999.9128 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.8238; 1995.3592-605; 1996.6841; 1996.6845; 1996.6862-3; 1996.6872; 1996.6876 - **Seko**, 1995.3620-4; 1996.6846-8 - **Sibut**, 1996.6849 - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4560; 1992.4562 - **Yaloke**, 1996.6850 - **Zimba**, 1991.332;

1992.4561; 1994.8278-83; 1995.3606-8; 1995.3625-8; 1995.3635; 1996.6851-9; 1996.6873; 1996.6877.

***Psammodromus sibilans* (Linnaeus, 1758) [40 specimens]**

Psammodromus sibilans (Linnaeus, 1758); Joger, 1990: 97.

Am-Dafok, 1996.6878-84; 1996.6903; 1999.8830-2 (JLT) - **Birao**, 1995.3629; 1996.6885-9; 1996.6896-901; 1996.6938 - **Bohou**, 1999.8834 (JLT) - **Bouar**, 1994.8284 - **Delembé**, 1996.6890-1; 1996.6893-4; 1996.6902 - **Gordil**, 1999.9106 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.8288-91 - **La Gounda**, 1999.9135 (JLT) - **Paoua**, 1995.3630 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.6895 - **No locality**, 1996.6892.

***Psammodromus sudanensis* (F. Werner, 1919) [40 specimens]**

Psammodromus subtaeniatus (Peters, 1881); Joger, 1990: 97.

Am-Dafok, 1996.6904-5 - **Birao**, 1995.3631; 1996.6906-17; 1996.6937 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8292-3 - **Delembé**, 1996.6918-9; 1999.8833 (JLT) - **Gordil**, 1999.8992 (JLT) - **Kouki**, 1994.8294-306 - **Paoua**, 1995.3633-4; 1996.6920-1 - **Tizi-Fongoro**, 1996.6922.

Remarks: The valid name of that taxon was long problematic. Joger (1990) followed Böhme (1987) in the attribution of its specific name (see also Böhme 1986). Its valid name was advanced by Hughes (1999).

***Rhamnophis aethiopicus* (Günther, 1862) [2 specimens]**

Rhamnophis aethiopicus (Günther, 1862); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bangui, 1994.8346 - **Beleboke**, 1996.6958.

Remarks: In the most recent review of the tribe Dispholidini (Broadley & Wallach 2002) the genus *Rhamnophis* Günther, 1862 was reinstated for *Rhamnophis aethiopicus* and *T. batesi*.

- **Rhamnophis batesi* (Boulenger, 1908) [1 specimen]**
 S.C.A.D., 1995.3662.
- Rhamphiophis oxyrhynchus* (Reinhardt, 1843) [26 specimens]**
Rhamphiophis oxyrhynchus (Reinhardt, 1843); Joger, 1990: 97.
Bossangoa, 1994.8307-13 - **Kouki**, 1994.8314-23 - **La Gounda**, 1994.8324; 1999.8995 (JLT) - **Manovo**, 1999.8742 (JLT) - **Paoua**, 1992.4604-6; 1994.8325 - **Sangba**, 1999.8984 (JLT) - **No locality**, 1997.3460.
- Scaphiophis albopunctatus* (W. Peters, 1870) [44 specimens]**
Scaphiophis albopunctatus (Peters, 1870); Joger, 1990: 98.
Bambari, 1991.346; 1992.4666 - **Bangui**, 1995.3649; 1996.6923 - **Berberati**, 1994.8326; 1995.3636-40; 1996.6924 - **Birao**, 1996.6925-6 - **Boali**, 1994.8327; 1995.3641-2; 1996.6927-9 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8328 - **Damara**, 1991.374 - **Kouki**, 1992.4688-91; 1994.8329-31; 1995.3650 - **Mboki**, 1995.3643; 1996.6930 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6931 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6932 - **Paoua**, 1994.8332-4; 1995.3644-5 - **Sangba**, 1996.7567-9 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3646-8.
****Telescopus obtusus* (Reuss, 1834) [2 specimens]**
Birao, 1996.6933-4.
***Telescopus variegatus* (Reinhardt, 1843) [14 specimens]**
Telescopus variegatus (Reinhardt, 1843); Joger, 1990: 98.
Birao, 1995.3651; 1996.6935 - **Kouki**, 1994.8335-42; 1995.3652-4; 1996.6936.
- Thelotornis kirtlandii* (Hallowell, 1844) [32 specimens]**
Thelotornis kirtlandii (Hallowell, 1844); Joger, 1990: 98.
Bangui, 1992.4549-50; 1994.8343-5; 1995.3655-6; 1996.6939-42 - **Bayanga**, 1995.3657-8; 1996.6943 - **Berberati**, 1996.6944 - **Boali**, 1996.6945 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3659 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3660 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6946-8 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6949-50 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3661; 1996.6951-55 - **Sibut**, 1992.4551 - **Zimba**, 1996.6956-7.
****Thrasops flavigularis* (Hallowell, 1852) [1 specimen]**
Bayanga, 1992.4593.
***Thrasops jacksonii* (Günther, 1895) [18 specimens]**
Thrasops jacksonii (Günther, 1895); Joger, 1990: 98.
Bambari, 1995.3663 - **Bangui**, 1996.6968 - **Boali**, 1996.6959; 1996.6971 - **Bossangoa (Route de)**, 1995.3664 - **Bouar**, 1996.6960 - **Grimari**, 1991.376 - **Mbaiki**, 1995.9691 - **Mboki**, 1996.6961-2 - **Ndakane**, 1996.6963-5 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6966-7 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.6969 - **Zimba**, 1995.3665; 1996.6970.
- ELAPIDAE [229 specimens]**
- Boulengerina annulata* (Buchholz & W. Peters, 1877) [6 specimens]**
Boulengerina annulata (Buchholz & Peters, 1876); Joger, 1990: 98.
Bayanga, 1994.3381; 1995.3666 - **Boali**, 1996.6972 - **Ndakane**, 1996.6996 - **Zimba**, 1995.3667; 1996.6973.
***Dendroaspis jamesoni* (Traill, 1843) [42 specimens]**
Dendroaspis jamesoni (Traill, 1843); Joger, 1990: 98.
Bambari, 1991.343 - **Bayanga**, 1995.3680 - **Belemboke**, 1996.6974 - **Berberati**, 1994.8353-4; 1995.3681-2; 1996.6986 - **Boali**, 1992.4547; 1994.8355; 1996.6975 - **Grima**, 1996.6976 -

Ndakane, 1996.6977 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6987-8 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6978-80 - **Sangba**, 1996.6995; 1996.7542-3 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3683; 1996.6981; 1996.6989 - **Seko**, 1995.3684; 1996.6990 - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4548 - **Zimba**, 1994.8356; 1995.3685-90; 1996.6982-5; 1996.6991-4.

Remarks: Reference to the west African species, *Dendroaspis viridis* (Hallowell, 1844), made by Barber *et al.* (1979) is indicated by Joger (1990) with a “?” symbol. By all available evidence this represents confusion of this species with the closely related central African form *D. jamesoni* (see Rasmussen 1994: 27 and Spawls & Branch 1995: 85-86). The specimen from the CAR in the collections mentioned by the latter authors is referable to *D. viridis*. The collection in which this specimen is included comes primarily from central Africa but a few specimens are labelled “Chad”. Pending the collection of a specimen that certifies the (very unlikely) presence of *D. viridis* in Central Africa, we recommend that the collection locality of this specimen be considered erroneous. Raymond Pujol was based at Sérédou in Guinea, and it is probable that this specimen comes from the latter country (M. Lamotte pers. comm., October 2001).

***Dendroaspis polylepis* (Günther, 1864) [7 specimens]**

Dendroaspis polylepis (Günther, 1864); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bamingui, 1996.7006 - **BOZOU**M, 1996.7007 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8357-8 - **Mboki**, 1996.7008 - **Sangba**, 1999.8769 (JLT) - **Soumba (West of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3691.

***Elapsoidea laticincta* (F. Werner, 1919) [3 specimens]**

Elapsoidea laticincta (Werner, 1919); Joger, 1990: 98.

Kouki, 1995.3668-70.

***Elapsoidea semiannulata moebiusi* (F. Werner, 1897) [29 specimens]**

Elapsoidea semiannulata Bocage, 1882; Joger, 1990: 98.

Bambari, 1991.309 - **Boali**, 1997.3183 - **Bossangoa**, 1992.4671; 1994.8347 - **Delembe**, 1996.6997-8 - **Kouki**, 1992.4682; 1994.8348-52; 1995.3671-5 - **Mboki**, 1996.6999-7002 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7003 - **Paoua**, 1995.3676-9; 1996.7004 - **Sangba**, 1996.7572 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1996.7005.

****Naja haje haje* (Linnaeus, 1758) [4 specimens]**

Am-Dafok, 1996.7009; 1999.8836 (JLT) - **Birao**, 1995.9681 - **Gordil**, 1999.8800 (JLT).

***Naja melanoleuca* (Hallowell, 1857) [60 specimens]**

Naja melanoleuca (Hallowell, 1857); Joger, 1990: 98 [part].

Bambari, 1992.4540 - **Bangui**, 1991.312; 1992.4542; 1994.8359-61; 1995.3694-9 - **Bayanga**, 1992.4543-5; 1995.3700; 1996.7010-3 - **Berberati**, 1995.3701-5; 1996.7014-6 - **Boali**, 1996.7017 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3707-9 - **Ibengue**, 1994.8372; 1996.7034; 1996.7036 - **Mboki**, 1996.7018 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7019; 1996.7020-1 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.8371; 1995.3710-3; 1996.7022-33; 1996.7035 - **Zimba**, 1992.4541; 1994.8374; 1996.7037.

Remarks: Preliminary molecular data shows that *Naja melanoleuca* is monotypic (Broadley *et al.* in prep.).

****Naja subfulva* (Laurent, 1955) [19 specimens]**

Naja melanoleuca (Hallowell, 1857); Joger, 1990: 98 [part].

Bossangoa, 1994.8362-7; 1995.3706 - **Bouar**, 1994.8368-9 - **Kouki**, 1994.8370 - **Manovo**, 1999.8738 (JLT) - **Paoua**, 1994.8373 - **Sangba**, 1995.3692-3; 1996.7038; 1999.8743; 1999.8799 (JLT); 1999.9136 (JLT) - **Soumba (West of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3714.

Remarks: Preliminary molecular data shows that *Naja subfulva* is a derived evolutionary species (Broadley *et al.* in prep.). Populations in the mangrove and swamp forests of the Niger Delta resemble topotypical material from Kivu, the adults lacking black or grey ventral banding, but populations in the west Cameroon grassfields (Stucky-Stirn 1979;

as *N. m. aurata*) retain two or three dark ventral bands. All these populations are sympatric with *N. melanoleuca* (Broadley pers.comm.). Specimens from Sudanese savannas exhibit colouration and scalation characteristic of *N. subfulva* (back brown and belly spotted with dark grey, 203-211 ventral plates for males versus 211-221 for *N. melanoleuca* males, and 208-218 for females versus 219-226 for *N. melanoleuca* females), a taxon described on the basis of material from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

***Naja nigricollis* (Reinhardt, 1843) [54 specimens]**

Naja nigricollis (Reinhardt, 1843); Joger, 1990: 98.

Banga, 1996.7039 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3715-9; 1996.7040-6 - **Boali**, 1995.3720 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8375-8; 1995.3721 - **Damara**, 1991.301-2 - **Kouki**, 1992.4683-6; 1994.8379-83; 1995.3722-5 - **La Gounda**, 1996.7047 - **Manovo**, 1999.8724 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3726-31; 1996.7048-9 - **Nana-Bakassa**, 1992.4546 - **Paoua**, 1994.8384; 1995.3732-3 - **Sangba**, 1999.8797 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3734-5 - **Zimba**, 1994.8385-7.

****Paranaja multifasciata* (F. Werner, 1902) [1 specimen]**

Nola, 1994.52.

***Pseudohaje goldii* (Boulenger, 1895) [4 specimens]**

Pseudohaje nigra Günther, 1858; Barber *et al.*, 1979; Joger, 1990: 98..

Pseudohaje goldii (Boulenger, 1895); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bayanga, 1991.303; 1996.7050 - **Berberati**, 1996.7051 - **Seko**, 1995.3736.

Remarks: Reference to the west African species *Pseudohaje nigra* Günther, 1858 by Barber *et al.* (1979) is indicated by Joger (1990) with a “?” symbol. This probably represents confusion with the closely related central African form *P. goldii* (see Rasmussen 1994: 27; Spawls & Branch 1995: 85-86).

VIPERIDAE [489 specimens]

***Atheris broadleyi* (Lawson, 1999) [1 specimen]**

Berberati, 1996.7063.

Remarks: This species appears to occupy the entire border region between the CAR and Cameroon. In central Africa it has been recorded from Nola (Lawson 1999). Two other specimens from the collections (1988.191-2) are from Donge Bongoween, 100 km south of Bouar, also in the CAR.

***Atheris squamigera* (Hallowell, 1854) [47 specimens]**

Atheris squamiger (Hallowell, 1854); Joger, 1990: 98.

Banga, 1996.7052-5 - **Bangui**, 1991.368; 1994.8388-9 - **Bayanga**, 1995.3737; 1996.7056-7; 1996.7216 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3738; 1996.7058-62 - **Grima**, 1996.7064-5 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3740; 1996.7076; 1996.7078-9 - **Mboki**, 1995.3739 - **Ndakane**, 1991.315 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7066-9 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7070-1 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.8390; 1995.3741-3; 1996.7072-5; 1996.7077 - **Zimba**, 1994.8391-2; 1996.7080-3 - **No locality**, 1996.7084.

***Bitis arietans arietans* (Merrem, 1820) [68 specimens]**

Bitis arietans (Merrem, 1820); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bambari, 1995.3744 - **Berberati**, 1994.8393-5; 1995.3745-51; 1996.7085-7 - **Boali**, 1992.4536; 1996.7088-9 - **Bossangoa**, 1994.8396-7 - **Bouar**, 1995.3752 - **BRIA**, 1996.7090 - **Damara**, 1996.7091-2 - **Kouki**, 1994.8398-409; 1995.3753-9; 1996.7093-4 - **Manovo**, 1996.7095-6; 1999.8739 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3760-2; 1996.7097-9 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7100 - **Paoua**, 1994.8410; 1995.3763-4 - **Sangba**, 1996.7101; 1996.7562; 1996.7565-6 (JLT); 1999.8838-40 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3765-6 - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4537 - **Soumba (West of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3767.

***Bitis gabonica* (Duméril & Bibron, 1845) [37 specimens]**

Bitis gabonica (Dum. & Bibr., 1845); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bambari, 1995.3768 - **Bangui**, 1991.366 - **Bayanga**, 1995.3769 - **Berberati**, 1994.8411; 1996.7103 - **Ibengue**, 1995.3770 - **Kembé**, 1992.4534 - **Mboki**, 1995.3771-3 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7104 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7105-8 - **Sangba**, 1999.8837 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1994.8412; 1995.3780; 1996.7109-11; 1996.7115 - **Seko**, 1995.3774-5; 1996.7112 - **Zimba**, 1992.4533; 1992.4535; 1994.8413-5; 1995.3776-9; 1996.7113-4 - **No locality**, 1996.7116.

***Bitis nasicornis* (Shaw, 1802) [9 specimens]**

Bitis nasicornis (Shaw, 1802); Joger, 1990: 98.

Grima, 1996.7117 - **Ibengue**, 1996.7118; 1996.7120 - **Nola**, 1991.367 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.7119; 1996.7121 - **Zimba**, 1992.4640; 1994.8416; 1996.7122.

***Causus lichtensteini* (Jan, 1859) [48 specimens]**

Causus lichtensteini (Jan, 1859); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bambio, 1996.7123 - **Banga**, 1996.7124 - **Bayanga**, 1992.4674; 1996.7125 - **Beleboke**, 1996.7126-32 - **Berberati**, 1995.3781 - **Grima**, 1996.7133-4; 1996.7210; 1996.7612 - **Ibengue**, 1996.7151 - **Kpoka**, 1996.7135-7 - **Mboki**, 1996.7138 - **Mondika**, 1996.7139 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7140-4 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7145 - **Sangba**, 1996.7557-9 (JLT) - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.3782-3; 1996.7146-50; 1996.7611 - **Seko**, 1995.3784 - **Yamando**, 1996.7152 - **Zimba**, 1992.4632; 1994.8417-20; 1995.3785; 1996.7153.

***Causus maculatus* (Hallowell, 1842) [269 specimens]**

Causus maculatus (Hallowell, 1842); Joger, 1990: 98.

Bambari, 1991.330; 1992.4526; 1992.4645-8; 1995.3786-7; 1996.7154-5 - **Bamingui**, 1996.7156-7 - **Banga**, 1996.7158-60 - **Bangbali**, 1996.7161 - **Bangui**, 1991.369; 1992.4527-8; 1992.4530;

1992.4623; 1995.3788-90; 1996.7162-4 - **Bayanga**, 1992.4521 - **Beleboke**, 1995.3791-2; 1996.7165-74 - **Berberati**, 1994.8421-4; 1995.3793-803; 1996.7175-81 - **Birao**, 1995.3804; 1996.7182-4 - **Boali**, 1994.8425-8; 1994.8486; 1995.3805-6; 1996.7185-8 - **Bossangoa**, 1992.4508; 1992.4668-70; 1994.8429-50; 1994.8451-4; 1995.3408 - **Bossebele**, 1996.7189 - **Bouar**, 1994.8455 - **Bouca**, 1992.4552 - **Damara**, 1991.370 - **Delembe**, 1996.7190 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3807-10 - **Grima**, 1996.7191 - **Kouki**, 1992.4677-81; 1994.8456-75; 1995.3811-2; 1995.5658 - **La Gounda**, 1992.4509; 1992.4511-2; 1992.4515; 1992.4518; 1992.4522; 1994.8476-8; 1999.8591 (JLT) - **Manovo**, 1996.7192-3; 1999.8723 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1995.3813-6; 1996.7194 - **Ndele**, 1996.7195-6 - **Ngotto**, 1996.7197-202 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.7203-5 - **Paoua**, 1994.8479-85; 1995.3817; 1995.3819-26 - **Sangba**, 1996.7214-5; 1996.7573-5 (JLT); 1999.8588-9 (JLT); 1999.9123-7 (JLT) - **Seko**, 1995.3827-29; 1996.7206-7 - **SOGESCA**, 1992.4532 - **Soumba (West of Bossangoa)**, 1995.3830-1 - **Yaloke**, 1996.7208 - **Zimba**, 1991.316; 1991.371; 1992.4510; 1992.4513-4; 1992.4516-7; 1992.4519-20; 1992.4523-25; 1992.4529; 1992.4531; 1992.4629-31; 1994.8487-98; 1995.3832-41; 1996.7209-11; 1996.7213.

****Causus resimus* (W. Peters, 1862) [1 specimen]**

Am-Dafok, 1997.3179.

****Causus* sp. [1 specimen]**

Causus rhombeatus (Lichtenstein, 1823); Joger, 1990: 98 [part].

Soumba (West of Bossangoa), 1995.3842.

Remarks: This distinctive taxon was collected in 20 localities in Cameroon, all in the Adamaoua mountains and the west Cameroonian range (Chirio & Lebreton in press). Its occurrence in the CAR, in the most eastern mountains of the Adamaoua Range, is entirely consistent with our collections from neighbouring Cameroon. This species is most probably an endemic to submontane habitats within this subregion, closely related to, but distinct from, *C. rhombeatus*, and we therefore include it in our biogeographic analysis. Mention of *C. rhombeatus* by Joger (1990: 98) [part] - from Garoua-Boulai (at the

Cameroonian border on the eastern slopes of the Adamaoua mountains) could be attributed to the same species but the other, older records, most certainly refer to *C. maculatus*, these two species being very often mixed up in the past.

***Echis ocellatus* (Stemmler, 1970) [4 specimens]**

Echis cf. *ocellatus* (Stemmler, 1970); Joger 1990: 98.

Paoua, 1994.8499; 1995.3843-3844; 1997.3180.

Remarks: Joger (1990) mentions *E. ocellatus* based on a single specimen from Bangui. This locality seems to us to be very improbable as it does not correspond with suitable habitat for this species. Our specimens are from a Sudano-Saharan woodland savanna in the vicinity of Paoua. These specimens warrant further examination as they exhibit numerous characteristics (e.g. large size, greater numbers of ventral scales; see table below) not found in more westerly populations; they could correspond to an undescribed species.

	SVL	TL	SEX	PRV+V	SC
1994.8499	582	47	F	3+166	21
1995.3843	495	53	M	1+150	27
1995.3844	515	59	M	3+148	26
1997.3180	645	70	M	2+154	27

Table: Size and scalation characteristics of the CAR specimens of *Echis ocellatus*. SVL: snout-vent length (mm); TL: tail length (mm); SEX: F female or M male; PRV+V: precentrals and ventrals; SC: sub-caudals.

****Echis pyramidum* (Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, 1827) [4 specimens]**

Am-Dafok, 1997.3181-2; 1999.8801-2 (JLT).

ATRACTASPIDIDAE [116 specimens]

***Amblyodipsas unicolor* (Reinhardt, 1843) [12 specimens]**

Amblyodipsas unicolor (Reinhardt, 1843); Joger 1990: 95.

Bangui, 1991.325 - **Kouki**, 1994.7355-8 - **Manovo**, 1999.8716 (JLT) - **Mboki**, 1996.6453-4 - **Ouazoua**, 1996.6455 - **Paoua**, 1992.4613 - **Sangba**, 1996.6456; 1997.3545 (JLT).

***Aparallactus lunulatus* (W. Peters, 1854) [38 specimens]**

Aparallactus lunulatus (Peters, 1854); Joger 1990: 95.

Bambari, 1992.4655 - **Bangui**, 1991.305; 1992.4614-7; 1994.3223; 1994.3233; 1994.7359-60; 1996.6457 - **Berberati**, 1994.3224-5; 1996.6458-60 - **Brandja**, 1999.8983 (JLT) - **Damara**, 1996.6461 - **Kouki**, 1994.3226-32; 1994.7361-6 - **La Gounda**, 1994.7367 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6462 - **Seko**, 1994.3234-5; 1996.6463-5.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 95) assigns the form found in the CAR to the subspecies *A. l. nigrocollaris* Chabanaud, 1916.

***Aparallactus modestus* (Günther, 1859) [11 specimens]**

Aparallactus modestus (Günther, 1859); Joger 1990: 95.

Berberati, 1994.3236-40; 1996.6466-71.

***Atractaspis aterrima* (Günther, 1863) [11 specimens]**

Atractaspis aterrima (Günther, 1863); Joger 1990: 95.

Bangui, 1991.307; 1992.4624; 1994.3215 - **Berberati**, 1994.3216-8; 1994.7342 - **Kouki**, 1994.3219; 1994.7343-4 - **Sibut**, 1991.306.

*** *ATRACTASPIS BOULENGERI* (Mocquard, 1897) [1 specimen]**

Ibengue, 1996.6395.

**Atractaspis corpulenta* (Hallowell, 1854) [1 specimen]

S.C.A.D., 1995.9668.

Atractaspis irregularis (Reinhardt, 1843) [21 specimens]

Atractaspis irregularis (Reinhardt, 1843); Joger 1990: 95.

Bambari, 1991.353; 1992.4539; 1996.6404 - **Bangui**, 1991.308; 1996.6396-7; 1996.6401 - **Beleboke**, 1994.3220; 1996.6398; 1996.6481 - **Berberati**, 1994.7345; 1996.6399 - **Bohou**, 1999.9129 (JLT) - **Bouar**, 1994.7346-7 - **Gamboula**, 1994.3221 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6400 - **Zimba**, 1992.4538; 1994.7348; 1996.6402-3.

Atractaspis reticulata (Sjöstedt, 1896)

Atractaspis reticulata (Sjöstedt, 1896); Joger, 1990: 95.

Remarks: Roux-Estève (1965) mentions the presence of *A. reticulata*, a species that we did not find during our surveys. We examined the two specimens from Boukoko in the CAR on which her claim is based and confirm their identity (1963.899 and 1964.566). We therefore include this species in our biogeographic analysis.

**Atractaspis watsoni* (Boulenger, 1908) [4 specimens]

Birao, 1994.3222; 1996.6405 - **Delembe**, 1999.9131 (JLT) - **Gordil**, 1999.9103 (JLT).

Remarks: Formerly attributed to *Atractaspis microlepidota*, those specimens clearly belong to the recently revalidated taxon *A. watsoni* (see Trape *et al.* in press).

Polemon christyi (Boulenger, 1903)

Miodon christyi (Boulenger, 1903); Joger, 1990: 96.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 96) mentions this species with some doubts but we did not find it in our substantial collection. It appears to be restricted to eastern Africa (Hughes pers. comm.) and we therefore

do not consider it part of the central African herpetofauna.

Polemon collaris (W. Peters, 1881) [5 specimens]

Miodon collaris (Peters, 1881); Joger 1990: 96.

Beleboke, 1995.3503 - **Berberati**, 1994.8205 - **Gamboula**, 1995.3501 - **Zimba**, 1995.3502; 1996.6805.

Polemon gabonensis (A. Duméril, 1856) [6 specimens]

Miodon gabonensis (Duméril, 1856); Joger 1990: 96.

Berberati, 1996.6806; 1997.3185 - **Ngotto**, 1996.6807 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1996.6808 - **Zimba**, 1997.3503-4.

Polemon griseiceps (Laurent, 1947)

Miodon griseiceps (Laurent, 1947); Joger, 1990: 96.

Remarks: Joger (1990: 96) cited and accepted Welch's (1982) mention of this species occurring in the CAR, but we did not obtain material. The correct identification of species in this genus is difficult. We do not believe that this species occurs in the CAR.

**Polemon notatus* (W. Peters, 1882) [4 specimens]

Berberati, 1994.8206; 1995.9687-8; 1996.6809.

**Polemon robustus* (de Witte & Laurent, 1943) [2 specimens]

Berberati, 1995.9689 - **S.C.A.D.**, 1995.9690.

APPENDIX 2

Number of specimens of the various species collected or observed in the Central African Republic:

Taxa	Number of specimens collected	Number of species collected or observed	New taxa within the CAR
Chelonii	86	11	6
Pelomedusidae	49	5	4
Trionychidae	6	2	1
Testudinidae	31	4	1
Crocodylia	5	3	1
Lacertilia	1814	48	20
Gekkonidae	360	9	4
Agamidae	364	4	0
Chamaeleonidae	154	6	2
Lacertidae	62	6	5
Gerrhosauridae	5	1	0
Scincidae	845	19	8
Varanidae	24	3	1
Amphisbaenia	38	1	0
Serpentes	2930	120	35
Typhlopidae	118	10	4
Leptotyphlopidae	46	4	3
Boidae	46	4	1
Colubridae	1886	68	16
Elapidae	229	11	3
Viperidae	489	11	3
Atractaspididae	116	12	5
TOTAL	4873	183	62