

NUMBER 62 | JUNE 2015

AHN

AFRICAN HERP NEWS



Giant Legless Skinks
Agonistic Behaviour



Serrated Tent Tortoise
Winter Activity



Banded Caecilian
Behaviour



Eastern Shield Cobra
Distribution

AFRICAN JOURNAL OF HERPETOLOGY

EDITOR'S REPORT

This report covers my third period as editor for *African Journal of Herpetology* (January 2013 to December 2014). In this period, *AJH* has shown steady growth in terms of sales, downloads, citations and impact. The upward trend for all of these metrics is a very positive sign, and we hope that they serve to reflect an increasing interest from our readership in the material published. As always, we'd be interested in hearing your comments either to me (as editor), or to the Chair of the Editorial Board (Prof. Graham Alexander).

TAYLOR & FRANCIS PUBLISHING AJH

We are nearing the end of the first five year agreement with Taylor & Francis (T&F), and the HAA committee have renegotiated a second five year term for this contract. The benefits to members from this relationship include free access that members continue to receive to all *AJH* articles right back to Volume 1 in 1965 via the T&F website (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ther20/current>; see below).

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR FREE CONTENT

- Go to Taylor & Francis Online (www.tandfonline.com) and register your email address. The 'Register' option is at the top of the page in blue text.
- To create your account, enter your name, organization, country and email address. Then enter and confirm a password, tick the box to confirm your acceptance of terms and conditions and enter the information for the Captcha security question. Once complete, click the 'Register' button at the bottom of the page.
- Next, you will receive an automated confirmation email with a link and explanation of how to verify your account. Please follow these email instructions. Note that adding the address support@tandfonline.com to your Safe Senders list in your email software will ensure that emails regarding the set-up are not caught in spam filters or junk folders.
- Next, you will receive an automated confirmation email with a link and explanation of how to verify your account. Please follow these email instructions.
- Then you will see a welcome screen. Click your name at the top of the screen. Click on 'Access Entitlements' on the menu option on the left-hand side of the next screen. You should now see *African Journal of Herpetology* listed as your subscription on the next page.

- Click on the Journal's name to browse all volumes and issues of the Journal. You should see that all articles are adjacent to green icons and text saying 'Full access', enabling you to read and download as part of your HAA membership.

Enjoy reading *African Journal of Herpetology* at Taylor & Francis Online. If you experience any difficulties, or have any queries about accessing the Journal online, please do not hesitate to contact support@tandfonline.com for assistance.

Our partnership with T&F and their online platform helps increase visibility of *AJH* throughout the academic world. In the last 2 years, 7 568 copies of 636 different *AJH* articles were downloaded by a total of 628 institutions around the world; number one in this period was the Universidad de Chile with 306 downloads. We can also see which articles were downloaded. Congratulations to Alan Channing and Kirsty Wahlberg (2011) for their article “Distribution and conservation status of the desert rain frog *Breviceps macrops*” for having the top downloaded paper, with 293 downloads. Other highly downloaded articles were Poynton (2013) and Measey (2011), which both exceeded 200 downloads during the past 2 years.

For submissions, we continue to use an online system (ScholarOne: mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ther) which really helps ease the complexities of editorial work. The ScholarOne system produces its own metrics which were carried in the last report, and continue below. The following metrics (Tables 1 & 2) relate to the 2013 and 2014 activity for *AJH* on ScholarOne:

Table 1. Types and number of submission to the *African Journal of Herpetology*.

SUBMISSIONS:	MINI-REVIEWS	REVIEWS	ORIGINAL ARTICLES	SHORT COMMUNICATIONS
	0	2	32	10

Table 2. Processing time of manuscripts submitted to the *African Journal of Herpetology*.

SCHOLARONE METRICS	DAYS
Average Time to First Decision	20
Average Referee Turnaround Time	23.3
Average Time to Final Decision:	25.6
Proportion Accepted	33.8%

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Work on the journal has been achieved through a concerted effort from a committed editorial team. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the Associate Editors (AEs): Jörn Köhler (Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt), Bryan Maritz (now at University of the Western Cape), and Eli Greenbaum (University of Texas at El Paso). AEs take on an important and vital role, investing a lot of time in reading and assessing manuscripts, reading reviewer's reports and making recommendations. It is important to note that the work of AEs consistently increases the quality of manuscripts submitted. Here I welcome Ed Stanley (Californian Academy of Sciences) who is taking on a new position as Associate Editor, and say a special thank you to Dave Blackburn (Californian Academy of Sciences) who finished his 5 year term as Associate Editor at the end of 2014.

THE DON BROADLEY PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN AFRICAN HERPETOLOGY

Candidates for the prize come from students who publish in *African Journal of Herpetology* in the two years prior to the judging. Judges are drawn from the editorial board of *AJH* under the leadership of the Chair of the Editorial Board, Graham Alexander. The winner is Dan Portik for his article: "Untangling the complex: molecular patterns in *Trachylepis variegata* and *T. punctulata* (Reptilia: Scincidae)." Dan wins \$500 and his article will be freely access for the next 6 months. You can read it [here](#). (Ed - The six months of free access has now lapsed.)

SPECIAL EDITION

A special edition of *African Journal of Herpetology* (Volume 64; Issue 2) will appear in 2015 to celebrate 50 years of the journal. If you wish to contribute or organise a special edition of the journal, please contact the editor.

IMPACT FACTOR

African Journal of Herpetology continues to rise through the ranks of impact factors. Our Impact Factor (IF) reached 1.077 for 2013 (from 0.714 in 2011). This is the first time that the journal has achieved an IF greater than 1, and means that on average each publication is cited once every two years. *AJH* is now in the top half of all zoological journals indexed.

The metrics are considered to be a measure of quality of a journal, and the editorial team would like to thank all of our authors for their high quality contributions. It is also noteworthy that every submission to *AJH* is improved by peer review, and we are greatly indebted to all the reviewers who have given their valuable time to improve the quality of our submissions.

John Measey

Editor: African Journal of Herpetology