

METHODS OF EATING AND GENERAL BEHAVIOR IN SOME OLD WORLD SAURIANS IN CAPTIVITY.—I recently received a shipment of Saurians from Tel-Aviv, Israel, including two *Agama stellio*, which are relatively common. It is apparent that they are active during daylight and hide under rocks or logs at night. Their cage is equipped with a sixty watt light bulb, in an aluminum reflector, under which they warm themselves. When food, usually Insecta, is placed in the cage they do not pursue it, but ambush it, securing it at midbody, slightly masticating and ingesting it. They have never been observed drinking, therefore it is assumed that they obtain their water from the food.

A juvenile *Mabuya vittata*, also from near Tel-Aviv, is relatively active during the day and is usually found sunning directly under the heat. During the cool of the night, it is found buried in the coarse gravel in the warmest section of the cage. This change of position generally occurs during the first twenty minutes after or before the light is turned on or off. The tongue is applied to the prey for identification. After the prey, Insecta, has been identified, it is attacked at midbody and masticated; then ingested anterior section first. It is probable that it obtains water from desert plants in the early hours. This assumption is based on the fact that it drinks from a dropper and has never been observed drinking from a dish.

*Acanthodactylus sculellatus*, a juvenile from Tel-Aviv, is generally active during daylight although it has never been observed to sun itself. It buries under the largest rock in the coolest section of the cage during the night and reappears after the sixty watt light has been turned on. The tongue is employed for the identification of prey much as in *Mabuya*. The prey, Insecta, is pursued and attacked, then ingested in any fashion. It has been observed to drink from a dish, but also takes small drops of water on the gravel.

A *Crodylus crodylus niger* from Capetown, South Africa, is often found sunning in a position similar to that employed by *Phrynosoma* while the seventy-five watt spotlight is on; but retreats to its rock cavity during the cool of night. The tongue is used as a "Feeler." The food, consisting of Insecta, Lumbricus and small Saurians is pursued, and attacked in the same manner employed by *Phrynosoma*. The food has often been taken off the forceps and the water is taken either from a dropper or from a dish. The actual ingesting is a voracious procedure, the prey being thrashed about several times and consumed in any fashion.—*Stephen D. Busack, 8 Riverview Heights, Rochester 23, New York.*

A SIZE RECORD FOR GRAHAM'S WATER SNAKE.—On June 5, 1958, a female *Natrix grahami* Baird and Girard was collected as it emerged from a crayfish hole at Dry Walnut Creek, .3 mile north of Great Bend, Barton Co., Kansas. The specimen (KU 51446) was 33½ inches long immediately after death. The length of the KU specimen exceeds by 4 inches the previous record of 29½ inches (Strecker, 1926, Contrib. Baylor Univ. Mus., No. 4). The snake contained 25 embryos; Schmidt and Davis (1941, Field Book of Snakes of the U. S. and Can.) reported that 10 to 15 embryos was the normal number.—*Robert N. Miner, 2824 Paseo Dr., Great Bend, Kansas.*