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MABUYA HOESCHI

Hoesch's Skink
SIZE

Only a few published size records exist for the skink *Mabuya hoeschi*. On 7 May 1966 an adult female (dissected) was collected 10 km north-east of Sanitatus (18°11'S, 12°46'E; 1812Bb3), Opuwo district, Namibia, by W.D. Haacke, and deposited in the collection of the Transvaal Museum (TM 32364). The following measurements were taken after preservation: head height (HH, at occiput), head length (HL, tip of snout to anterior edge of tympanum) and head width (HW, widest part of skull) were measured with digital calipers; snout-vent length (SVL) and tail length were measured with a plastic millimeter ruler. Measurements: HH = 12,3 mm, HL = 18,7 mm, HW = 17,8 mm, SVL = 100 mm, tail length = 155 (complete) mm. In Mertens' (1955, *Abh. Senckenb. Naturf. Ges.* 490: 1-172) treatment of the Namibian herpetofauna the largest recorded specimen was the holotype (SMF 45681), a male with 62 mm SVL and 130 mm tail length. Branch (1988, *Field Guide to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of Southern Africa*, Struik, Cape Town) gives the total length range as 17-19 cm, with a maximum of 20 cm. In size, the Sanitatus specimen exceeds previously published records.

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LACERTIDAE

HELIOBOLUS LUGUBRIS

Bushveld Lizard
COPULATION

Lizard reproductive biologists frequently rely on preserved specimens to elucidate timing of reproduction and reproductive cycles. Consequently, any reproductive behavioural components are absent from these studies. In the late afternoon of 20 February 1996 I observed a female *Heliobolus lugubris* on the farm Bergvallei 753 (1914DA), Outjo district, Namibia. She was approached by a male who chased her for a few meters before seizing her at the tail base. The male subsequently shifted his grip to behind her left forelimb. Copulation was observed for a duration of about 30 min, during which time the female showed no signs of resistance.

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