

## Miscellanea Herpetologica Gabonica XVI

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### Abstract

We present new Gabonese locality records, ecological and morphological data or unpublished material for *Kinixys erosa* (Testudinidae), *Trachylepis albilabris* (Scincidae), *Calabaria reinhardtii* (Boidae), *Dasypeltis fasciata*, *Hapsidophrys smaragdinus*, *Philothamnus carinatus*, *P. heterodermus* and *P. nitidus nitidus*, *Thrasops flavigularis*, *Toxicodryas blandingii* and *T. pulverulenta* (Colubridae), *Dendroaspis jamesoni jamesoni*, *Naja melanoleuca* (Elapidae), *Mehelya poensis*, *Polemon collaris* (Lamprophiidae), *Natriciteres fuliginoides* (Natricidae), *Python sebae* (Pythonidae), *Bitis gabonica* and *Causus maculatus* (Viperidae). One snake species is newly recorded from Loango National Park, and three from Estuaire Province.

### Keywords

Biodiversity, herpetofauna, Testudines, Squamata, *Eurema* butterfly, protected areas, caves, Gabon, Equatorial Africa.

### Introduction

The first 15 installments of the series *Miscellanea Herpetologica Gabonica* filled numerous gaps in the knowledge of the geographical distribution, morphology and natural history of the reptiles of Gabon, yet the ongoing accumulation of new records demonstrates how poorly known they still are locally, even in the most prospected areas. Making available freshly gathered as well as old but unpublished observations and material is crucial to help improving the herpetology of the country, and to prepare a revised and improved version of the synthetic work by Pauwels and Vande weghe (2008).

The valuable data gathered for our series are generally collected by field workers, not herpetologists. For instance, most of the snakes reported in the present volume were killed by villagers in the 1980s. They were preserved by AP during field trips while he was based in Ntoun, Estuaire Province, between 1984 and 1987, working as an entomologist for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO; Pauly, 1998). AA made opportunistic herpetological observations while working as field coordinator for the gorilla reintroduction project of The Aspinall Foundation in Batéké Plateau National Park from 2015 to 2019. The observations made by RO were done in the course of archaeological activities in one the most promising burial sites discovered in recent times in subsaharan Africa (Anonymous, 2018).

### Material and Methods

New photographic and voucher material was identified using

the keys and morphological information provided by Pauwels and Vande weghe (2008). Snake ventral scales were counted according to the method of Dowling (1951). Snake dorsal scale rows were counted at one head length behind head, at midbody (above the ventral corresponding to half of the total number of ventrals), and at one head length before vent; subcaudal counts exclude the terminal pointed scale. Paired meristic characters are given left/right. Morphological data of all preserved specimens are presented in Table 1.

Abbreviations: Institutions: RBINS = Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium. Morphology: A = anal plate; AT = anterior temporals; D = divided; DSR = number of dorsal scale rows; IL = number of infralabials, followed in brackets by the number of IL in contact with the first pair of sublinguals; K = keeled; Lor = number of loreal scales; PoO = number of postoculars; PreO = number of preoculars; PV = number of pre-ventrals; S = single; SC = number of subcaudals; SL = number of supralabials, followed in brackets by the SL in contact with the orbit; SubO = number of suboculars; SVL = snout-vent length; TaL = tail length; U = unkeeled; VEN = number of ventral scales. Varia: Dept = Department; NP = National Park; Prov. = Province.

### Results

Testudines

Testudinidae

*Kinixys erosa* (Schweigger, 1812)

On 17 December 2019 RNM photographed an adult individual

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**Figure 1.** Adult *Kinixys erosa* crossing a forest road near Miyanza, Ogooué-Lolo Prov., eastern Gabon. Photograph by R. Ndonga Makemba.

that was crossing the road by day near the village of Miyanza (= Mihandza; ca. 0°43'02.9"S, 13°25'51.9"E), Mouloundou Dept, in Ogooué-Lolo Prov. (Figure 1). New locality. Within this dept, this tortoise was already recorded from three localities (Maran and Pauwels, 2005; Pauwels, Bahaa-el-din et al., 2018). In spite of being intensively hunted throughout the country, this species is still regularly observed in direct proximity to human settlements.

#### Squamata

##### Scincidae

###### *Trachylepis albilabris* (Hallowell, 1857)

An individual was found on 6 March 2020 at 2 PM in Iroungou Cave (*Grotte d'Iroungou*; 2°09'20.0"S, 11°10'45.0"E), Dola Dept, Ngounié Prov., at a depth of 20 meters under the forest floor. Figure 2 shows it *in situ*, and allows seeing the tricarinate dorsals, the prefrontals in broad contact, the separated supranasals, and an orange spot in front of the shoulder. The color of the lower flanks is lighter than the dorsum but not abruptly contrasting with the dorsum color. The posteriormost of the four supraoculars is separated by a single scale from the anterior supratemporal. Its total length was about 12 cm. It is the first time that a scincid is found in a cave in Gabon (Pauwels, Carlino et al., 2019). The skink did not try to escape when photographed; it was rather apathetic. It is possible that it had accidentally fallen through the vertical entrance of the cave; other individuals were seen by RO on the forest floor outside the cave, at proximity to its entrance. New dept record (Pauwels, Kamdem Toham et al., 2002).

#### Boidae

###### *Calabaria reinhardtii* (Schlegel, 1851)

An adult Calabar boa killed by locals was found by AP in 1985 in the *Forêt de la Mondah*, now a part of the protected area Arboretum Raponda-Walker, Komo-Mondah Dept, in Estuaire Prov. Its head and neck were preserved (RBINS 19466). It shows a vertically elliptical pupil. This snake had already been cited from the arboretum (Pauwels, 2016) and the nearby Cap Estérias (Pauwels and David, 2008), but not yet vouchered.

#### Colubridae

###### *Dasypeltis fasciata* Smith, 1849

We examined the head and neck of an adult individual (RBINS



**Figure 2.** *Trachylepis albilabris* in situ in Iroungou Cave, Ngounié Prov., southern Gabon. Photograph by Pascal Mora.

19467) and of a subadult individual (RBINS 19468) killed in 1983 in the area of Ntoun, Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., preserved by G. Evers and by P. D. Manser, respectively. Both show a uniformly pale belly and an indistinct dorsal pattern. The width of their paraventral row is less than two times the width of the other dorsal scale rows. The lengths of their frontals are subequal to that of their parietals. New dept record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008).

###### *Hapsidophrys smaragdinus* (Schlegel, 1837)

An adult individual was collected by G. Evers in Ntoun area, Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in 1983. Its head and forebody (RBINS 19469) were preserved. Its dorsal color was green in life. New locality record; the Common emerald snake had already been recorded from the dept by Pauwels, Biyogho Bi Essono et al. (2017). On 25 September 2018 DF photographed an adult individual on a fence in Bambidié (0°44'27.9"S, 12°58'31.0"E), Mouloundou Dept., Ogooué-Lolo Prov. (Figure 3). New locality record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008).

As an outgroup in their phylogenetic study on the genus *Philothamnus*, Engelbrecht et al. (2018) used a specimen of *Hapsidophrys smaragdinus*, but did not provide details on the locality. The voucher was actually the specimen "ID number J349, PEM R5383," from "Latitude -1.915, Longitude 9.871" (M. Burger, pers. comm. to OSGP, Nov. 2018), i.e., 1°54'54.0"S, 9°52'15.6"E, in Rabi-Toucan oilfields in Ogooué-Maritime Prov. In fact, this specimen, collected by Bill Branch, Marius Burger and OSGP was a voucher for the record of that species from this site by



**Figure 3.** Adult *Hapsidophrys smaragdinus* in Bambidié, Ogooué-Lolo Prov., central-eastern Gabon. Photograph by D. Fonteyn.



**Figure 4.** Adult *Philothamnus nitidus nitidus* swimming in Loango National Park, Ogooué-Maritime, western Gabon. Photograph by A. M. Whittaker.

Pauwels, Burger et al. (2006), even if no precise voucher and locality had been provided in the latter publication.

*Philothamnus carinatus* (Andersson, 1901)

In a recent phylogenetic study on the genus *Philothamnus* (Engelbrecht et al., 2018), the map illustrating the geographic locations of the genetic samples used shows three dots on Gabon (two for *P. carinatus* and one for *P. nitidus nitidus*), but no information is available on the vouchers used or the precise localities of the samples. M. Burger, co-author of that paper, indicated (pers. comm. to OSGP, Nov. 2018) that the *P. carinatus* samples originated from the specimen PEM R5441 ("ID number J335, Latitude -2.153, Longitude 9.589," i.e., 2°09'10.8"S, 9°35'20.4"E) and PEM R5938 ("ID number J354, Latitude -2.170, Longitude 10.030," i.e., 2°10'12.0"S, 0°01'48.0"E), respectively. The first locality lies in Loango NP in Ogooué-Maritime Prov.; the corresponding specimen was collected by Bill Branch, Marius Burger and OSGP and already published (Pauwels, Branch et al., 2002). The second locality corresponds to a specimen collected by the same persons and lies near Rabi-Toucan oil fields in Ogooué-Maritime Prov.; it supported the mention of that species from this area by Pauwels, Burger et al. (2006). Engelbrecht et al. (2018) showed that the species *P. carinatus* includes two well-supported sister clades; the Gabonese population seems to belong to the typical form.

*Philothamnus heterodermus* (Hallowell, 1857)

An adult individual was found freshly killed in 1984 in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., by AP. Its head and forebody were preserved (RBINS 19453). It had a green dorsal background color in life. It shows black bars on the dorsal surface of the forebody. Its temporal formula is 2+2+2 on each side. Its internasals are slightly shorter and narrower than its prefrontals. On the left side it shows two elongate loreals, one lying above the other. New prov. record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008).

*Philothamnus nitidus nitidus* (Günther, 1863)

During a boat trip in Loango NP on 25 February 2020 near mid-day AMW photographed an uniformly bright green adult individual swimming in Ngové River (2°04'36.1"S, 9°36'17.8"E) (Figure 4), Etimboue Dept, Ogooué-Maritime Prov. First record for the park and for the dept. This brings the total number of reptile species known from the park to 45 (Pauwels, Branch et al., 2002; Pauwels, 2016).

The sample for *Philothamnus nitidus nitidus* used by Engelbrecht et al. (2018; see above under the account for *P. carinatus*) originated from the specimen PEM R 5397 ("ID number J337, Latitude -2.091, Longitude 9.962," i.e., 2°05'27.6"S, 9°57'43.2"E; pers. comm. of M. Burger to OSGP, Nov. 2018). It was caught by Bill Branch, Marius Burger and OSGP in Rabi-Toucan oilfields, and was the voucher to list this species from this site (Pauwels, Burger et al., 2006), even if no reference to a precise voucher had been given.

*Thrasops flavigularis* (Hallowell, 1852)

On 4 Nov. 1985 AP encountered an adult individual (RBINS 19454) killed by villagers in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov. In life its whole body, including the venter, was black, except its yellowish throat. Its total length was about two meters. Two other individuals, an adult (RBINS 19455) and a subadult (RBINS 19456), were found by AP in Ntoun in 1987, freshly killed by locals. Their heads and forenecks were preserved. All three had a temporal formula of 1+1 on each side, a round pupil, and a vertebral row which is not widened. New dept record; in Estuaire this species was already reported from the depts of Komo (Pauwels and David, 2008) and Komo-Océan (Pauwels, Le Garff et al., 2016). The distribution of this large, conspicuous, diurnal snake is still surprisingly poorly known in Gabon.

*Toxicodryas blandingii* (Hallowell, 1844)

An adult Blanding's tree snake was killed in Feb. 1985 in a hut on the beach (ca. 0°28'48.8"N, 9°23'28.7"E) at La Sablière in the capital city Libreville, Estuaire Prov. Its head and foreneck were immediately preserved by AP (RBINS 19470). New locality (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008). This is one of the most commonly encountered snake species in the country, being found in all kinds of environments from savanna and primary forest to cities; however this is the first report from a Gabonese beach.

*Toxicodryas pulverulenta* (Fischer, 1856)

Villagers killed an adult individual in the palm leaves roof of a hut in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in April 1987. Its head was preserved by AP (RBINS 19457). In life its color was uniformly beige. New prov. record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008). Why this species is so much more rarely encountered than the congeneric and ubiquitous *Toxicodryas blandingii* remains a mystery.

Elapidae

*Dendroaspis jamesoni jamesoni* (Traill, 1843)

Two adult individuals (RBINS 19458-19459) were killed in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in April and June 1987, respectively, and their heads preserved by AP. New dept record; the Jameson's mamba has only been recently recorded for the first time from Estuaire province (Pauwels, Chirio et al., 2017), and the distribution of this highly venomous but shy snake is still poorly documented in Gabon.

*Naja melanoleuca* Hallowell, 1857

In 1985 AP preserved the head and foreneck of an adult Black and white cobra (RBINS 19460) that had just been killed by villagers in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-



Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov. New locality record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008). This cobra is by far the most commonly encountered highly venomous snake in Gabon, and is found in virtually all environments, from primary forests to cities and beaches.

#### Lamprophiidae

##### *Mehelya poensis* (Smith, 1847)

AP preserved the head and foreneck of an adult individual (RBINS 19461) killed in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in 1985. A subadult individual (RBINS 19462), killed in Ntoun in 1983, was collected by G. Evers. Their dorsum was uniformly black in life. Their vertebral row is widened and shows a double keel. New dist. record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008).

##### *Polemon collaris* (Peters, 1881)

An individual (RBINS 19463) was collected by AP in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in 1985. Its ventral light color extends to the lower half of the lowest dorsal scale row. Its sixth supralabial is the longest; no supralabial contacts the parietals. The distance between the orbit and the upper lip is slightly less than twice the eye diameter. Its upper postocular is distinctly smaller than the lower one. Its temporal formula is 1+1 on each side. This rare snake had not yet been found in Estuaire Prov. (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008).

#### Natricidae

##### *Natriciteres fuliginoides* (Günther, 1858)

The adult individual RBINS 19464 was collected by G. Evers in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in 1983. Its tail tip is missing, the tail is healed. New dept record (Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008; Pauwels, Bamba Kaya et al., 2020). The locality Engong-Kouame listed by Pauwels and Vande weghe (2008: 227) lies in the nearby Komo Dept.

#### Pythonidae

##### *Python sebae* (Gmelin, 1789)

In 1987, AP witnessed the killing of an adult individual in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov. The python had entered a chicken coop but was not able to go out because it had already eaten several chickens. Its skin was preserved (RBINS 19452), and shows a length of 275 cm; the head, neck and tail are missing, hence the actual total length is higher. New locality record within Estuaire (other localities in this province are listed by Pauwels and Vande weghe, 2008; Pauwels, Le Garff et al., 2016; Pauwels, Carlino et al., 2017; Pauwels, Chirio et al., 2017).

On 15 June 2017 AA photographed two Seba's pythons *in copula* in a bush (2°02'03.0"S 14°04'07.9"E; Figure 5) in the northern part of Batéké Plateau NP, Plateaux Dept, Haut-Ogooué Prov. On each of the photographs taken during the observation one can see a butterfly of the genus *Eurema* Hübner, 1819, most probably *E. brigitta* (Stoll, 1780) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae), flying around the cloaca of the pythons. The secretions generated during the copulation are probably highly attractive to the butterfly. This black and yellow butterfly



**Figure 5.** Two pythons *in copula* in Batéké Plateau National Park, Haut-Ogooué Prov., southeastern Gabon. Arrow points to the *Eurema cf. brigitta* butterfly near the tail tip. Photograph by A. Araldi.

was already recorded from Batéké Plateau NP (Vande weghe, 2010). Although pythons are commonly observed in Gabon, data on their local reproductive cycle are lacking. It is to be noted that it is also in June that observations were made on male-male combat in the presence of a female, in Wonga-Wongué Presidential Reserve in western Gabon (Pauwels, Chirio et al., 2017).

On 21 December 2018, RNM photographed a juvenile individual in the base camp of Precious Woods logging company in Bambidié (0°44'27.9"S, 12°58'31.0"E), Mouloundou Dept., in Ogooué-Lolo Prov. (Figure 6). New locality record (Pauwels, Le Garff et al., 2016; Pauwels, Gillet et al., 2018). The python had been beaten with sticks by the villagers and was dying when photographed. A photograph taken of its ventral side showed that it had no preventrals, 285 ventrals, a single anal scale and a complete, original tail with 67 divided subcaudals. Its umbilical scar was still visible on ventrals 206 to 211.

We take this opportunity to mention a python record overlooked in the synthesis by Pauwels and Vande weghe (2008). In a popular book on game hunting in Gabon, Pierre Weité (1953) described and illustrated with a photograph a case of predation by an adult python on a near-adult female *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*



**Figure 6.** Dying juvenile *Python sebae* in Bambidié, Ogooué-Lolo Prov., central-eastern Gabon. Photograph by R. Ndonda Makemba.

**Table 1.** Morphological data for preserved snakes from Gabon. NA = not available/not assessed. For the other abbreviations see Materials and Methods.

Species / Specimen	Sex	SVL (mm)	TaL (mm)	DSR	PV+VEN	A	SC	SL	IL	Lor	PreO	SubO	PoO	AT
Boidae														
<i>Calabaria reinhardtii</i>														
RBINS 19466	NA	NA	NA	28-NA-NA, U	2+>16, U	NA	NA	8(3-4)/8(3-4)	9/9	1/1	1/1	0/0	2/2	NA
Colubridae														
<i>Dasypeltis fasciata</i>														
RBINS 19467	NA	NA	NA	25-NA-NA, K	0+>18, U	NA	NA	7(3-4)/7(3-4)	8(3)/8(3)	0/0	1/1	0/0	2/2	2/2
RBINS 19468	NA	NA	NA	25-NA-NA, K	0+>59, U	NA	NA	7(3-4)/7(3-4)	8(3)/8(3)	0/0	1/1	0/0	2/2	3/3
<i>Hapsidophrys smaragdinus</i>														
RBINS 19469	NA	NA	NA	15-NA-NA, K	2+>41, K	NA	NA	9(4-6)/9(4-6)	10(5)/9(5)	1/1	1/1	0/0	2/2	1/2
<i>Philothamnus heterodermus</i>														
RBINS 19453	NA	NA	NA	15-NA-NA, U	0+>36, K	NA	NA	8(5-6)/9(4-6)	8(4)/9(4)	2/1	1/1	0/0	2/2	2/2
<i>Thrasops flavigularis</i>														
RBINS 19454	NA	NA	NA	15-NA-NA, K	1+>12	NA	NA	8(4-5)/8(4-5)	10(4)/10(4)	1/1	1/1	0/0	3/3	1/1
RBINS 19455	NA	NA	NA	NA	0+>10	NA	NA	8(4-5)/8(4-5)	10(4)/10(4)	1/1	1/1	0/0	3/3	1/1
RBINS 19456	NA	NA	NA	NA	1+>7	NA	NA	8(4-5)/8(4-5)	10(4)/10(4)	1/1	1/1	0/0	3/3	1/1
<i>Toxicodryas blandingii</i>														
RBINS 19470	NA	NA	NA	NA	1+>10	NA	NA	9(4-6)/9(4-6)	12(4)/12(4)	1/1	2/2	0/0	2/2	1/1
<i>Toxicodryas pulverulenta</i>														
RBINS 19457	NA	NA	NA	NA	1+>4	NA	NA	8(3-5)/8(3-5)	11(5)/12(5)	1/1	1/1	0/0	2/2	2/2
Elapidae														
<i>Dendroaspis j. jamesoni</i>														
RBINS 19458	NA	NA	NA	NA, U	1+>13	NA	NA	8(4)/8(4)	10(4)/10(4)	0/0	3/3	1/1	3/3	1/1
RBINS 19459	NA	NA	NA	NA, U	1+>8	NA	NA	8(4)/8(4)	9(3)/9(4)	0/0	3/3	1/1	3/3	2/2
<i>Naja melanoleuca</i>														
RBINS 19460	NA	NA	NA	27-NA-NA	2+>12	NA	NA	7(3-4)/7(3-4)	8(4)/8(4)	0/0	1/1	0/0	3/3	1/1
Lamprophiidae														
<i>Mehelya poensis</i>														
RBINS 19461	NA	NA	NA	17-NA-NA, K	2+>25, K	NA	NA	7(3-4)/7(3-4)	8(5)/8(5)	1/1	1/1	0/0	2/2	1/1
RBINS 19462	NA	NA	NA	17-NA-NA, K	2+>24, K	NA	NA	7(3-4)/7(3-4)	8(5)/8(5)	1/1	1/1	0/0	2/2	1/1
<i>Polemon collaris</i>														
RBINS 19463	♂	199	14	15-15-15, U	3+218, U	D	21, D, U	7(3-4)/7(3-4)	7(4)/7(4)	0/0	1/1	0/0	2/2	1/1
Natricidae														
<i>Natriciteres fuliginoides</i>														
RBINS 19464	NA	288	>88	17-17-15, U	1+126, U	S	>42, D, U	7(3-4)/8(4-5)	8(4)/10(5)	1/1	1/1	0/0	3/3	1/1
Viperidae														
<i>Bitis gabonica</i>														
RBINS 19465	NA	NA	NA	NA	2+>7, U	NA	NA	16(0)/15(0)	18(4)/17(5)	NA	NA	4 rows/ 4 rows	NA	NA
<i>Causus maculatus</i>														
RBINS 19471	NA	NA	NA	17-NA-NA, U	3+>24, U	NA	NA	6(0)/6(0)	9(4)/9(4)	1/1	2/2	1/1	2/2	2/2

(Mammalia: Bovidae) near Idiengui. According to the information provided by Weité and published botanical collection localities (see Walters et al., 2011), Idiengui lies on the road N1 between Ndendé and Mouila, within 20 km from Ndendé, in Dola Dept, Ngounié Prov. It most probably corresponds to the village currently called Yengué and formerly called Diengui (Pauwels, Carlino et al., 2019). Weité was attracted to the scene by the distress call of the Defassa waterbuck. According to him, the total length of the python was 560 cm, its midbody circumference 48 cm, and its weight exceeded 100 kgs (loc. cit.: 44, 106-109). In his book describing his experiences during ten years of hunting in Gabon, Georges Trial (1955) made only a single reference to reptiles (p. 179): “Quant aux grands serpents non venimeux dont le python de Séba est le plus imposant - j’ai

mesuré un sujet qui approchait de neuf mètres de long - ils sont incapables d’attaquer efficacement, et à plus forte raison d’engloutir, autre chose qu’un petit marassin” (our translation : “As to the large non-venomous snakes, among which the Seba’s python is the most impressive—I measured an individual whose length was approaching nine meters—, they are not able to efficiently attack, and even more so swallow, anything larger than a young wild boar”). Unfortunately, no data on locality or circumstances was provided by Trial.

Weité (loc. cit.: 101-103) also mentioned having shot on 10 August 1950 three *Mecistops cataphractus* along a river between Azingo Lake and Lambaréné – thus in Rembo Azingo, Ogooué & Lacs Dept, Moyen-Ogooué Prov. According to

Weité, the total lengths of the crocodiles were about three, two and three meters, respectively. Weité mentioned other reptiles in his book, but without photograph and the information he provided was not precise enough to identify them.

#### Viperidae

*Bitis gabonica* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)

AP preserved the head (RBINS 19465) of a subadult individual killed in Ntoun (ca. 0°22'26.4"N, 9°46'24.2"E), Komo-Mondah Dept, Estuaire Prov., in 1985. The head shows 17/18 circumocular scales, a dorsal median black line, one black spot on each side of its postero-dorsal surface, and two black triangles under the eye on each side. New dept record (Pauwels and Vandeweghe, 2008).

*Causus maculatus* (Hallowell, 1842)

An adult individual killed by a villager with a machete in Léconi (= Lékon), Plateaux Dept, Haut-Ogooué Prov., was found by G. Rambaldi in October 1986. Its head and neck (RBINS 19471)

were preserved. The dorsal surface of the head shows the typical V-shaped mark. New dept record. Within Haut-Ogooué Prov., this savanna-dwelling viper had been so far recorded from Lébombi-Léyou and Passa depts (Pauwels, Oger et al., 2018; Pauwels, Morelle et al., 2019).

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