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Agama planiceps PETERS, 1862 as prey item for Black Mongoose *Galerella (sanguinea) nigrata*

On three occasions during July and August 2003 (9/07, 20/07, 19/08) adult Namibian Rock Agamas (*Agama planiceps planiceps* PETERS, 1862) were observed being caught and eaten by adult male Black Mongooses *Galerella (sanguinea) nigrata* in the Erongo Mountains west of Omaruru in western Namibia.

Whilst conducting fieldwork on the habitat use and home range of *G. nigrata* it was noticed that they often attempted to prey on *A. p. planiceps* individuals although mostly unsuccessfully. The three occasions when *A. p. planiceps* individuals were caught occurred during the early morning between 08:30 and 09:30 on cool days when the agamas were less mobile. Once caught, they were quickly subdued by being vigorously shaken for a few seconds and then totally consumed. On one occasion cooperative hunting by two *G. nigrata* individuals on *A. p. planiceps* was even observed albeit also unsuccessful.

According to SKINNER & SMITHERS (1990), Sauria rank second behind Insecta in the diet of *Galerella sanguinea* as identified from 60 stomach contents from southern Africa. The only *Agama* identified from the stomach contents however, was *A.*

cyanogaster (RÜPPELL, 1835) (Tree Agama). Predators of *A. p. planiceps* include hornbills and rock kestrels and up to 30% of adults have been documented with broken tails (BRANCH 1998). Although it is expected that small predators other than raptors prey on *A. p. planiceps*, this is most likely the first record of *A. p. planiceps* being preyed upon by *Galerella nigrata*

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REFERENCES: BRANCH, B. (1998): Field guide to snakes and other reptiles of southern Africa. Cape Town (Struik Publishers Pty Ltd.), pp. 399. SKINNER, J. D. & SMITHERS, R. H. N. (1990): The mammals of the southern African subregion. Pretoria (University of Pretoria Press), pp. 771.

KEY WORDS: Reptilia: Squamata: Sauria: Agamidae; *Agama planiceps*, predation, Namibia

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Python natalensis SMITH, 1833 preys on South African Porcupine *Hystrix africaeaustralis*

On 12 December 2003 a dead adult Southern African Python, *Python natalensis* SMITH, 1833, of 3 m in length was found approximately 60 km north-west of Okahandja on the farm Okarumetero in central Namibia with the carcass of an adult South African Porcupine *Hystrix africaeaustralis* individual inside it. The quills of the porcupine were protruding through the skin of the python possibly indicating that the python had caught and consumed the porcupine after which the quills resulted in the death of the individual. It would seem from the carcass remains that the python was disturbed after ingesting the porcupine and tried to regurgitate its prey consequently resulting in the death of the snake.

The diet of *P. natalensis* consists mainly of warm-blooded prey and includes rock hyrax, hares, cane rats, monkeys, small antelope, fish, monitor lizards, small crocodiles

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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