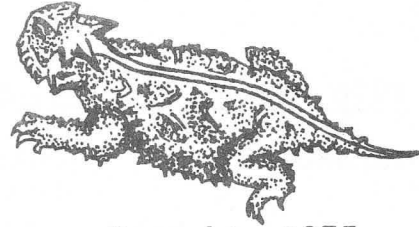


KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



Number 10

December 1975

NEW KHS OFFICERS FOR 1976

The following individuals were elected to 1976 office in the Kansas Herpetological Society as a result of the voting at the second annual meeting of the KHS in Topeka last month:

President-elect: Robert F. Clarke
Secretary: Terry D. Schwaner
Treasurer: Delphi Messinger

The KHS nominating committee, executive council, and all KHS members wish to express their deepest thanks to retiring officers Mary E. Dawson and Eric M. Rundquist for the fine job they have done as Treasurer and Past-president, respectively. George R. Pisani, 1975 KHS President, has very capably guided our society during its second year -- we owe him much thanks also. George will automatically become KHS Past-president for 1976 and continue to serve on the KHS executive council.

The following six persons are the KHS officers for 1976, and comprise the KHS executive council:

PRESIDENT: Jan Caldwell (913-864-4493)
State Biological Survey
2045 Avenue -A- Campus West
Lawrence 66045

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Robert F. Clarke (316-343-1200)
Department of Biology
Emporia Kansas State College
Emporia 66801

PAST-PRESIDENT: George R. Pisani (913-864-4373)
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Kansas
Lawrence 66045

SECRETARY: Terry D. Schwaner (913-864-3439)
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence 66045



1976 KHS OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

TREASURER: Delphi Messinger (316-942-2212)
Sedgwick County Zoo
5555 Zoo Boulevard
Wichita 67212

EDITOR: Janice Perry (913-864-4920)
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence 66045

FIRST 1976 KHS MEETING IN LAWRENCE

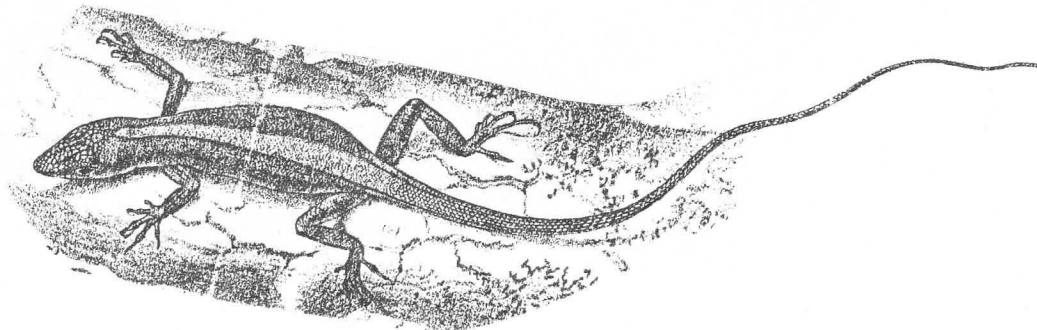
The first meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society in 1976 will be held on Saturday, 17 January, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the auditorium (room 308) of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The program schedule is as follows:

- 1:00 pm -- President Caldwell calls meeting to order and presents society business.
- 1:30 pm -- Luis Malaret, graduate student at the University of Kansas, will speak on "Studies on the parietal eye of Sceloporus undulatus garmani in South Dakota."
- 2:30 pm -- BREAK. Coffee will be served.
- 3:00 pm -- Henry S. Fitch, director of the KU Natural History Reservation, will talk about "Observations on the natural history of glass lizards."
- 4:00 pm -- Meeting adjourns.

All KHS members are urged to attend this meeting. We have an excellent program -- bring your interested friends. Lunch is available at the Kansas Union building (next to the Museum) at reasonable prices.

KHS SECOND ANNUAL MEETING A HUGE SUCCESS

The second annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society was held in Topeka at the West Lake Shelter House in Gage Park. Forty persons attended the meeting on Saturday, 15 November, and enjoyed the talks by Terry Schwaner and George Pisani as well as the live exhibits and slide program. Outgoing KHS President George Pisani turned the meeting over to Jan Caldwell, our KHS President for the coming year -- Jan adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.



HOWARD GLOYD NAMED KHS HONORARY MEMBER

The Kansas Herpetological Society, through the action of its executive council, has voted to welcome Dr. Howard K. Gloyd as an honorary member. Dr. Gloyd is a native of Ottawa, Kansas, and has achieved distinction as a world renown herpetologist. He is emeritus professor of zoology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Dr. Gloyd wrote several important papers on amphibians and reptiles in Kansas during the late 1920's and early 1930's, but is best known internationally for his important "The rattlesnakes, genera Sistrurus and Crotalus" published in 1940. Although retired, he continues work on his forthcoming monograph of the copperheads, cottonmouths and their old world allies.

Howard Gloyd joins Dr. Edward H. Taylor, our other KHS honorary member. We wish them both success in their future endeavors.

ERROR IN REPTILE DISEASE BOOKLET

The booklet by James Murphy entitled "A brief outline of suggested treatments for diseases of captive reptiles" was distributed free to all KHS members with the last KHS Newsletter (# 9). The booklet contains the following error:

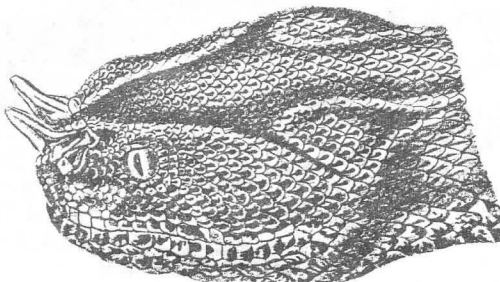
page 4, line 2 -- change 40 mg to 0.4 mg

Members are urged to correct this immediately in order to avoid improper dosage during treatment.

ABUSE OF CAPTIVE REPTILES IN KANSAS

Several years ago a traveling reptile show, billing itself as "the world's largest snake show," visited my area of Kansas. The snake in this exhibit was a reticulated python with an advertised weight of 370 pounds and a length of 24 feet. Along with the pitiful-looking python came the owner with his "snake stories," one of which explained how this beast could "crush" men like rotten sticks. The poor snake had a cage in a poorly heated trailer -- the cage had barely enough room for a boa constrictor, much less a 24 foot python.

A few years later a local fair exhibited a "snake-pit." Along with the usual photographs of exotic and beautiful dancing girls, there were signs proclaiming the presence of "deadly creatures." Upon entering the exhibit, I saw an overweight female dancer holding a bull snake. Inside a nearby pen were three watersnakes and a diamond-backed rattlesnake. The man inside the pen was playing with the



rattlesnake like I would play with a tame and tractable ball python. Upon request, he handed me the rattler -- I checked the mouth and discovered it had been sewn shut.

The most recent case of reptile abuse in my area occurred a while back. The snake was again advertised as the "world's largest snake" with a length of 23 feet. The owner further advertised it as a rock python that had swallowed a "native" girl. I was much dismayed as I paid my 50¢ and saw, to my regret, a 12 foot Burmese python. It was housed in an open-front trailer on a 48 degree October night. It was caged in an unheated, poorly ventilated enclosure. In addition, the same exhibit contained a cobra with an advanced case of mouth-rot.

I feel that something should be done to stop these traveling shows and end their abuse of helpless reptiles. Perhaps a board or committee should be formed to inspect and check these shows and roadside exhibits, and make corrections where necessary. Next summer I hope to open a permanent reptile exhibit. My goals are to educate people, rather than awe and amuse them, and to eliminate through education the myths and fears people have against reptiles. Although my boas and pythons couldn't be billed as the "world's largest snakes," they are certainly healthier and lead a far more comfortable life than any of those I've seen in recent years in traveling snake shows.

-- MARTIN CAPRON, P. O. Box 542, Oxford, Kansas 67119.

CURRENT LITERATURE

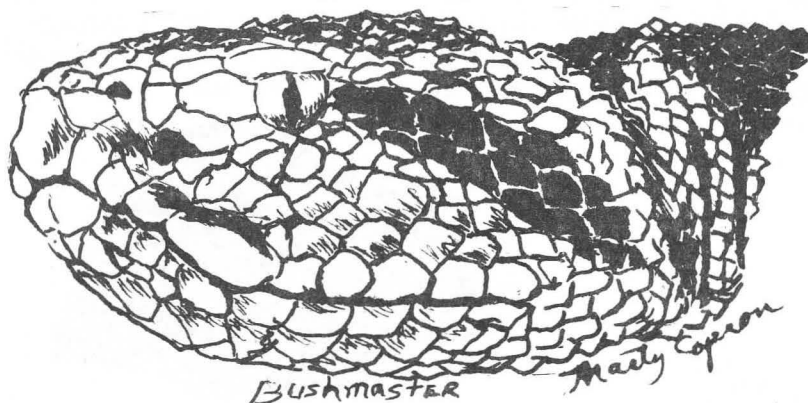
This current literature section has been compiled by Mary E. Dawson, and contains articles and books of possible interest to KHS members:

Dunson, W. A. (editor)

1975. The biology of sea snakes. 530 pp. Available from: University Park Press, Baltimore Maryland. Cost -- over \$30.00.

Perkins, L.

1974. All color book of reptiles. 72 pp. Numerous color photographs. Octopus Books (distributed in U.S. for \$3.98 by Crescent Books, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016).



CURRENT LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

Plummer, M. V. and H. W. Shirer

1975. Movement patterns in a river population of the softshell turtle, Trionyx muticus. Occas. Papers Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas, 43: 1-26. Available from: Publications Secretary, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence 66045.

Schwartz, C. W.

no date. Snakes and facts about them. 8 pp. Distributed by the Missouri Conservation Department. Free.

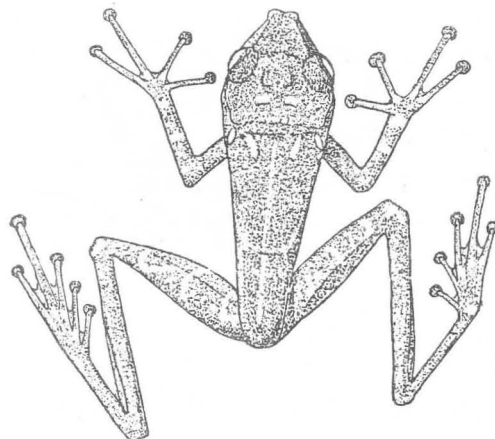
Silverstone, P. A.

1975. A revision of the poison-arrow frogs of the genus Dendrobates Wagler. Nat. Hist. Mus. Los Angeles County, Sci. Bull., 21: 1-55. Available for \$4.00 from: Editor, Museum Publications, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90007.



PLUMMER TO ARKANSAS

Michael V. Plummer, herpetology graduate student under Dr. Henry S. Fitch and a KHS member since its inception, has accepted a position with the biology department at Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas 72413. Mike was a graduate student at the University of Kansas, and shared an office with Luis Malaret in the herpetology division of the Museum of Natural History. His thesis topic was "Population ecology of Trionyx muticus." Mike intensively studied the softshell turtles at sites along the Kansas River. The KHS membership wishes him success and happiness in his new position.

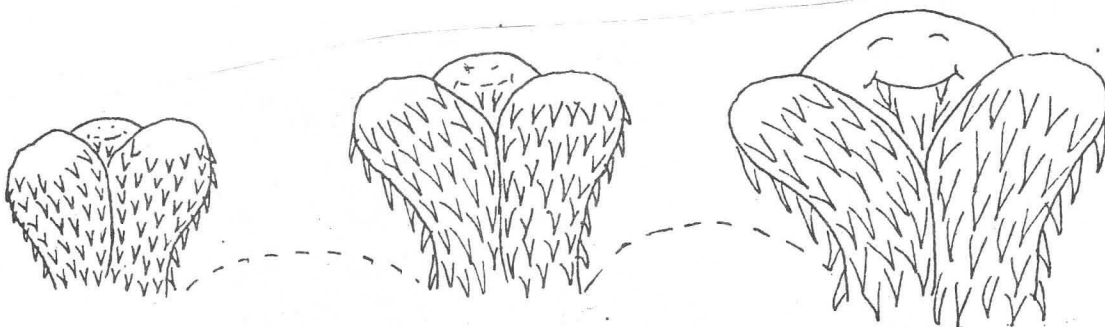


THE KHS TRIPLE -H- AWARD FOR 1975

Our courageous, handsome, hard-working (?) KHS reporter, Juan Simmons, recently interviewed Magnus Mierda, owner and operator of Mierda's Sideshow of Sinuous Scientific Splendor. He has filed the following paper

"All too often we take for granted the marvels of nature displayed by purveyors of truth, such as Prof. Mierda. For instance, Magnus owns The Largest Snake in the World TM, authenticated by a scientist at the famed Bombergaster Institute of Western Turkey to have consumed an entire family of eight, plus two dogs, three goats, and a chicken, shortly before it was captured following a battle to the death with a water buffalo. Prof. MM stressed the many problems he had traveling with this Vicious Reptile about the U.S. For instance, the difficulty in locating cities with orphanages . . . However, the Prof assured me the educational value of his fine exhibit outweighs even the problems of keeping a reptile between its tolerance of 32-105 degrees F. and satisfying its blood-lust for chicken. The Prof. has published numerous scientific studies, ranging from "Antivenom and the treatment of Coluber bites" to "Crotalids of Hawaii."

Unfortunately, the above "interview" comes frighteningly close to that of an actual interview with the owner of a traveling reptile show or exhibit. Too many of these fly-by-night operations are being allowed to exhibit their wares on an unsuspecting and gullible public, not only in Kansas, but throughout the entire U.S. Thus, it is with great pride that the KHS editors award the HOPPING HEMIPENIS OF HORROR for 1975 to all those people who own, operate or assist in displays of reptiles that mislead and seduce the public. Congratulations to all those people who get their kicks out of starving snakes in freezing temperatures -- here's hoping the ol' HHH happens along just when your hunkering down.

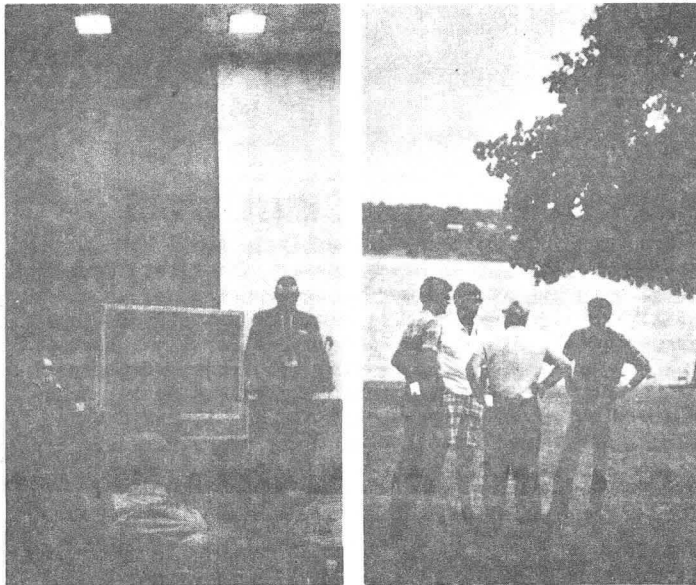




The Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles is an international organization established to advance the study of amphibians and reptiles. Although begun in 1958 as a regional society, SSAR rapidly gained a world-wide membership, largely because of its diversified publications program, and it is widely recognized to have the most active society-sponsored program of services for students of amphibians and reptiles. Membership is open to all persons, both amateur and professional.

ACTIVITIES

In addition to its publications, SSAR sponsors a number of activities of broad herpetological interest. The annual meeting is held each summer on a university campus or at biological stations throughout the United States since the Society especially wishes to attract students to its meetings by providing inexpensive and



informal facilities. In addition to the papers given by members at these meetings, symposia or other invited speakers are usually planned which allow for detailed discussions of important areas of contemporary study. Live animal, photographic, film and other exhibits are also organized, as well as field trips.

The Society makes a concerted effort in conservation, especially where this affects amphibians and reptiles, by influencing both state and national legislation and by acting as a clearinghouse for communication of conservation information. Likewise, an effort is made to cooperate and provide assistance to regional herpetological groups; as a result, one Society officer is selected from this constituency.

PUBLICATIONS

SSAR sponsors one of the most diversified series of publications of any scientific society. Some are intended for the professional, while others are primarily for amateurs. Each series is described in detail on the reverse side of this page, including some series that have been discontinued. Back issues of every publication are available; a detailed pricelist can be obtained simply by checking the appropriate box on the membership application.

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

All persons are welcome to become members of SSAR, to receive its publications, attend meetings and join in other Society activities. All members have voting privileges. Each year they receive these publications as part of their membership: *Journal of Herpetology* (4 issues, totalling about 400 pages), *Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology* (3-4 issues, about 200 pages), *Herpetological Circulars* (1-2 issues, about 50 pages), and *Herpetological Review* (4 issues, about 130 pages).

In addition, SSAR members receive a substantial discount on all book-length facsimile reprints issued during the year. Members may also place standing orders for accounts in the series *Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles* on their regular dues forms. Those persons electing the higher membership categories (Sustaining and Contributing members) receive the same publications and services, but provide additional financial support which allows the Society to expand and improve its programs more rapidly than would otherwise be possible.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please mark those boxes opposite the items you wish to subscribe to or order, fill in your name and address, and return to:

Dr. Max A. Nickerson
Society Secretary
Vertebrate Division
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233, U.S.A.

● Individuals:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Regular member (worldwide) | \$ 8.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sustaining member | 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contributing member | 15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles</i> , standing order | * <input type="checkbox"/> |

● Institutions:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Publications set: <i>Journal</i> , <i>Facsimiles</i> (booklet series), <i>Circulars</i> , and the <i>Review</i> | \$16.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles</i> , standing order | * <input type="checkbox"/> |

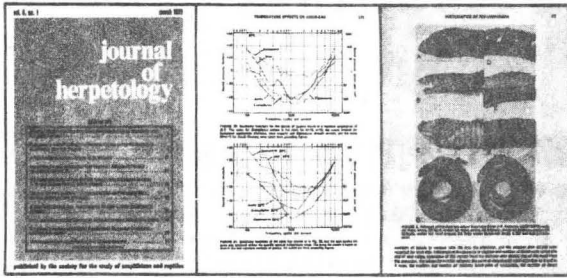
* billing on annual basis TOTAL \$

Please check here if you want a list of all SSAR publications available for purchase.

Your name and address:

 ZIP: _____

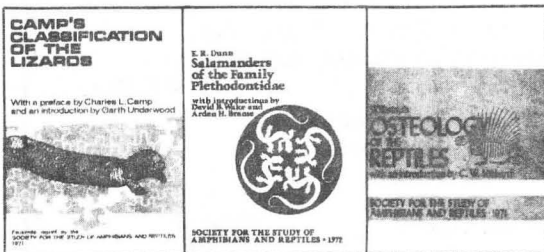
Make checks payable to "SSAR"; receipt sent on request only.



JOURNAL OF HERPETOLOGY

The *Journal* is the Society's primary scientific publication and is one of the leading journals in its field. It is international in scope and broadly covers amphibian and reptile biology. Manuscripts of any length, whether by members or not, are invited. Most articles are in English and are often extensively illustrated with photographs, drawings and color plates. Representative titles from some recent issues are listed below.

- "Ecological interactions of frog larvae in Thailand"
- "Defensive tail display by snakes and amphisbaenians"
- "Arboviruses in reptiles"
- "Pleistocene turtles from the Arkalon Fauna of Kansas"
- "A field kit for processing and storing amphibians and reptiles"
- "The larval life of the red salamander"
- "Energy content of lizard eggs and the measurement of reproductive effort"
- "Systematics and hybridization in European green frogs"
- "A new species of Chilean frog, genus *Telmatobufo*"
- "Temperature effects on inner-ear sensitivity in lizards"
- "On criteria for color preference in turtles"
- "An electrophoretic analysis of the hemoglobins of Old and New World lizards"
- "Galapagos sea turtles: preliminary findings"
- "Eggs and young of the scarlet king snake"
- "Evolution in the Australian lizard genus *Egernia*"
- "Distribution of the turtles of Minnesota"
- "Staining as a technique for marking tadpoles"
- "Combat dance of the black rat snake"
- "Delayed fertilization in the Brazilian snake *Xenodon*"
- "Scale and cranial characteristics of the caecilian *Bra-silotyphlus*"
- "Adaptations for undersand respiration in Asian skinks"
- "Effect of temperature and dissolved oxygen concentration on the rate of metamorphosis of salamanders"
- "The snake fauna of Middlesex, British Honduras"
- "Karyotypes of leptodactylid anurans"
- "Predator responses to the vermilion-spotted newt"



FACSIMILE REPRINTS

This series makes available once again important papers and books on amphibians and reptiles; all are exact copies with new introductions, indexes or other features. Members receive the smaller booklets without charge; in the past, authors included were Cope, Eschscholtz, Gray, LeConte, Linnaeus, Tschudi, Rafinesque and others.

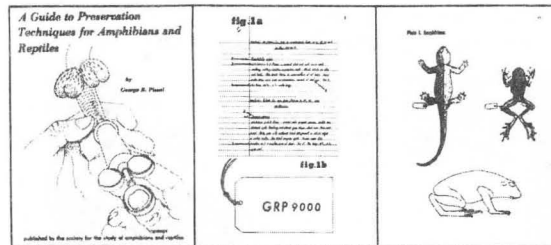
SSAR also publishes a book-length series; all members receive a special price discount. Titles include Camp's *Classification of Lizards*, Bojanus' *Anatome Testudinis*, Wiegmann's *Herpetologia Mexicana*, Williston's *Osteology of Reptiles*, Sowerby & Lear's *Tortoises, Turtles and Terrapins*, Dunn's *Salamanders of the Family Plethodontidae*, Tschudi's *Classification der Batrachier* and *Bulletin of the Antivenin Institute of America*.



HERPETOLOGICAL REVIEW

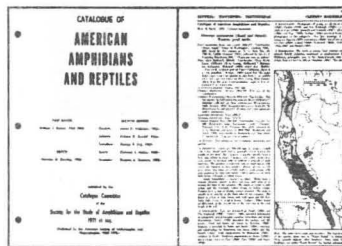
Since 1967, the *Review* has been the principal newsletter for the herpetological community. It contains newsnotes about people, institutions, programs and events of interest, including conservation news, abstracts of papers presented at meetings, book reviews, regional society news, articles on care of captive specimens, and ads.

A primary service of the *Review* is publication of a list of "Current Herpetological Titles" to keep readers abreast of the literature. Titles are obtained from a regular search of hundreds of biological journals.



HERPETOLOGICAL CIRCULARS

This new series is intended primarily to serve hobbyists, amateurs and other non-professionals. The first issue deals with techniques for museum preservation of specimens. Future *Circulars* will include checklists of common and scientific names for amphibians and reptiles, booklets on snakebite, care of captive specimens, educational opportunities and careers for herpetologists, etc. Booklets are sent to all members, and may be purchased by museums, clubs and hospitals for their own purposes.



CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

The *Catalogue* is a series of loose-leaf accounts, each giving a wealth of information about a particular genus or species, including common and scientific names, a description, fossils, a distribution map, and a literature survey. It is an essential reference for all biologists who use amphibians and reptiles in research.

To date, 150 accounts have been issued. About 15 are published each year but the number varies; thus bills are sent annually to those who place standing orders. This series is not provided as part of membership, but standing orders can be made on the SSAR dues form.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Two other series are now discontinued but back issues are still available. Both were published by SSAR's predecessor, The Ohio Herpetological Society. In spite of the Society's geographically-associated name, the scope of these series (*Journal*, *Special Publications*) is international in character; all publications are illustrated.

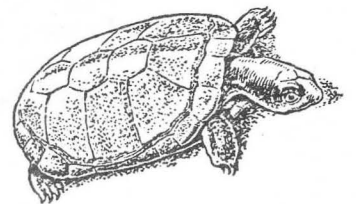
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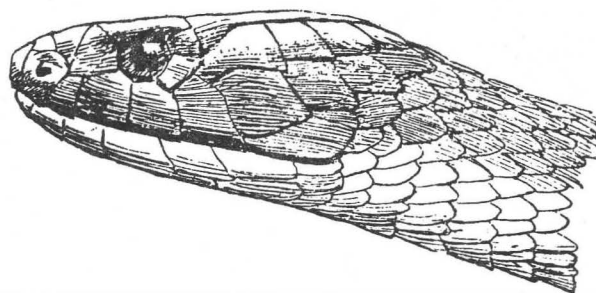
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John Wortman.....Topeka Zoo, 635 Gage Blvd., Topeka, KS

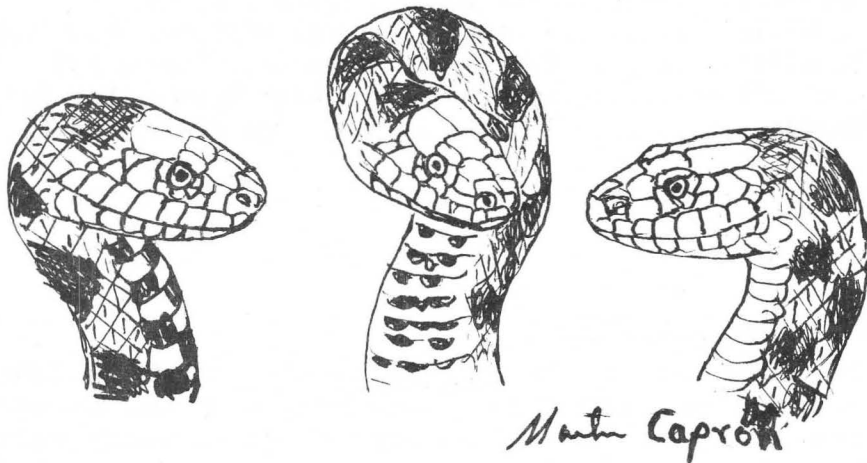
KHS EDITORS SAY THANKS

The editors of the KHS Newsletter wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mary Curtis, Joseph T. Collins, Mary E. Dawson, Randy Johnson, Laura Palmer, and Robert Sprackland, for their assistance in helping us put the KHS Newsletter together this year. In addition, we are most grateful to the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas for technical assistance, and to Dr. William E. Duellman for permission to use the facilities of the division of herpetology at that same institution. Your help has been deeply appreciated.

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Will the real, pure-bred Natrix Terry
Schwaner please coil-up!?!?



Martin Capron