

First Record of Snake from Uganda

Rhamphiophis acutus acutus (Günther)

= Psammophis acutus Günther, Ann.Mag.Nat.Hist. 1888. (6) 1, p.327.

Rhamphiophis acutus Boulenger, 1896, Cat. Snakes Brit.Mus. 3, p.148, 1915.

Two specimens of the above were taken at Murchison Falls by Mrs.J. Stoneman, and presented to the Nairobi Snake Park for the National Museum collection of Repriles. These snakes do not appear to have been recorded before from Uganda. Their range was believed to be southern Tanzania, west through Zambia to Angola, northeast through the Congo to Ruanda and Burundi.

The details of the two specimens are as follows:

	A	B
Mid body scale rows.	17	17
Sub caudals (paired)	61	63
Ventrals	183	185
Anal	Divided	Divided
Length, total	630 mm	675 mm
Length of tail	115 mm	125 mm
Sex	♂	♂

These snakes bear a strong resemblance to Psammophylax tritaeniatatus (Loveridge), but can be distinguished at once by the acutely pointed nose.

May we take this opportunity to remind the public that we are interested in any reptile specimens that they can produce for us.

Loveridge, A. 1957. Checklist of reptiles and amphibians of East Africa. Bull.Mus.Comp.Zool.Harv. Vol. 117, No. 2. p.277.

J.O.P. Ashe. 16/5/65

A Count of Crowned Cranes (Balearica regulorum (Bennett))
in the Kisii district, Kenya.

Kisii district is 757 square miles in area with an average population of 684 per square mile. The land lies between 4,800 and 6,200 ft. above sea level with a very evenly distributed rainfall varying from an average of about 50" per annum at the lower levels to 90" per annum in the highlands. There are many extensive permanent swamps, especially in Kitutu location.

In March 1963 the district Agricultural staff were asked, in the course of their work, to count the Crowned Cranes in their areas. The following record was made.

Location	No of cranes	Cranes per sq. mile.
N. Mugirango	288	2.00
Kitutu	383	2.00
Nyaribari	40	0.34
Bassi	64	0.68
Majoge	138	1.50
S. Mugirango	42	0.57
Wanjare	8	0.15
Total	<u>863</u>	Mean <u>1.14</u>

There was probably little liaison between the persons doing the count and no account was taken of movement of birds over location boundaries or across the district boundary. The count does show a total population of over 800 cranes in 757 square miles with a human population density of over 650 to the square mile. As was to be expected, the highest crane densities were found in the locations with the largest areas of permanent swamp.

V.E.M. Burke. 17/5/65

SOME ADDITIONAL FIELD NOTES ON VIPERA HINDII Boulenger

RECEIVED FROM C.J.P. IONIDES ON 15th November 1964

In early November 1964, in a few days, Ionides collected forty-four Vipera hindii at an altitude of about 10,000 ft on the Aberdares, which seems to be a further indication that this snake is not uncommon, though only likely to be found plentifully by those who know its habits.

In a patch of grass not more than about 4 ft across he saw eight of these little vipers, seven of which were collected and proved to be ♂ ♂.

An example of the Variable Skink, Mabuya varia varia (Peters) was found in the stomach of a V. hindii.

An Augur Buzzard, Buteo rufofuscus auqur (Rüpp.) was observed by Ionides at this high altitude to rise from the ground with a small snake - which could only have been V. hindii as no other snakes are recorded from this locality - in its talons.

(C.R.S. Pitman.)



Burke, V. E. M. 1965. "Nature Notes: A Count of Crowned Cranes (*Balearica regulorum* (Bennett)) in the Kisii district, Kenya." *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society and National Museum* 25(2), 162–163.

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