# POSTSCRIPT TO THE ARTICLE "ON THE QUESTION OF IMMUNITY OF SNAKES".

By: A.B. van Woerkom, Volkerakstraat 19-bis,
3522 RB Utrecht, The Netherlands.

From his own experiences and those of some friends Raymond Hoser concludes that Death adders are immune to the venom of their own species. Different observations are labelled as 'doubtful' or explained on the ground of 'extraordinary circumstances'.
In Litteratura Serpentium (1985), Vol. 5 (5): 170-180 (Dutch ed.: 174-183) Mr. Paul Heinrich Stettler described the death of two healthy Death adders as a result of the bite of a third Death adder all three young being from the same litter. I have contacted Mr. Stettler about this and he sent me the following additional information.
The mother animal was collected from the wild already pregnant. Immediately after birth the five young were sent to Switzerland where Mr. Stettler came into possession of three (all males). Several times already two snakes had bitten each other while hunting for prey, with however, no symptoms of envenomation being observed in the bitten animals.
After three and a half years and during the mating season one male died as a result of a bite from his bigger brother, who also caused the death of the third snake under the same circumstances one year later. These clear occasions prove to me that Death adders are not per definition immune from the venom of their own species.