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MEDIEVAL HERPETOLOGY, CORRECTION AND ADDENDUM TO  
PART 1.

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Asten.

In my first contribution about the sixth book of Jacob van Maerlant's *Der Nature Bloeme*, I gave an incorrect interpretation of vss 1-4 (Van der Voort, 1989), misled by my dictionary of the Middelnerlands. In this dictionary the word "hoeden" (vs 3) is only given as a verb. Burger directed me to the German noun "Hoden" that means testicle. In the Middelnerlandsch Dictionary indeed this word is present and spelt as "hode" with the above mentioned meaning. The correct interpretation of these sentences is as follows:

*Aristoteles die seghet,  
Dat gheen serpent te hebben en pleghet  
Hoeden, en ware dat sijn saet  
Na der vische maniere gaet.*  
(vss 1-4)

According to Aristoteles snakes do not have testicles, but eject their sperm as fishes do. (Aristoles believed that the sperm was withdrawn from the backbone (Pauly, 1975)).

An addition is made to the verses 15 and 16:

*Ist datmen hem den staert ofslaet,  
Hi wast als hem die tijd vortgaet.*  
(vss 15-16)

I suggested in my interpretation of these sentences that there was a contamination between the lizard and the snake. Anyhow, there is indeed a snake which inspired Aristoteles to make this remark.

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Trutnau (1988, pg 130) mentions that in the case of *Natriciteres olivacea* the tail can break off if this animal is handled by it. He also mentions that this tail can regenerate.

#### LITERATURE

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