

ABSTRACTS LECTURES SNAKE DAY 1996

■ AN EXCITING NEW FORM OF THE STRIPED TAILED RAT SNAKE, *ELAPHE TAENIURA* - THE BURMESE BLUE

Trevor Smith, England.

Trevor Smith presented an exciting lecture on the care and breeding of a new, beautifully blue-coloured form of *Elaphe teaniura*. Unfortunately the original 'type-species' is no longer available and its exact taxonomic position can not be determined. It is therefore not completely clear if it is a new sub-species. Also there is still some confusion of the exact location where this form was found.

In the meantime a small breeding group has been formed and the first offspring obtained. This snake turns out to be an ideal terrarium animal and given its beautiful blue colour it can be expected that in the future they will become very popular animals.

■ EUROPEAN VIPERS IN THE WILD

*Pedro Janssen, Bingelkruid 52, 5803 BN
Venray, The Netherlands.*

The speaker explained that he had gone through an development from keeping vipers in terraria for a hobby to being a photographer and researcher of vipers in the wild. After finishing his studies and getting a job he was able to spend more money on travelling. This way he met the vipers he kept in his terraria, in the wild. This experience made him decide to sell his animals and to watch and study vipers in nature only. Later on he also started with the photography of these animals.

The speaker became involved in a Dutch herpetological study group and by that with viper research in the Dutch National Park 'De Meinweg'. Together with some other researchers he now tries to obtain more knowledge on the many unknown aspects of the life of the viper.

The presentation was divided into two parts. The first part concerned the life of the viper (*Vipera berus*) from winter to autumn in the National Park 'De Meinweg'. The second part concerned his travels through Europe visualized by many slides of different vipers and their biotopes. Not too many data and knowledge was pro-

vided on the vipers, the beautiful slides were clear enough.

By this presentation the speaker wanted to show the beauty of vipers in the wild and that there is also another way to spend your free time on snakes than keeping them in terraria.

■ CARING AND BREEDING ELAPHE SPECIES

*Koert Langeveld, Cautharel 12, 2925 DJ
Krimpen a.d. IJssel, The Netherlands.*

During a slide presentation of forty minutes, Koert Langeveld discussed twenty species and subspecies of the genus *Elaphe*.

He started his presentation with some slides on a visit of the Snake Procession in Coccullo (Italy) followed with many slides on European, Asian and North-American *Elaphe* species. Meanwhile Koert discussed the housing, hygiene, breeding and hibernation of his animals.

He clearly mentioned that the European *Elaphe* species, with the exception of *Elaphe scalaris*, since August 1995 are listed on List A of the Dutch BUDEP law and therefore are only allowed to be kept by permission.

■ SINFONIE IN SAND UND STEIN, NAMIBIA

H. Kratzer, Switzerland.

A beautiful and professional slide- and sound presentation on his travel through Namibia was given by Mr. Kratzer. This country, located on the west coast of Africa between Angola and South Africa, is 20x the size of The Netherlands with only 1,5 million inhabitants. Impressing slides of this nations nature, culture, flora and fauna, including snakes of course, were commented.