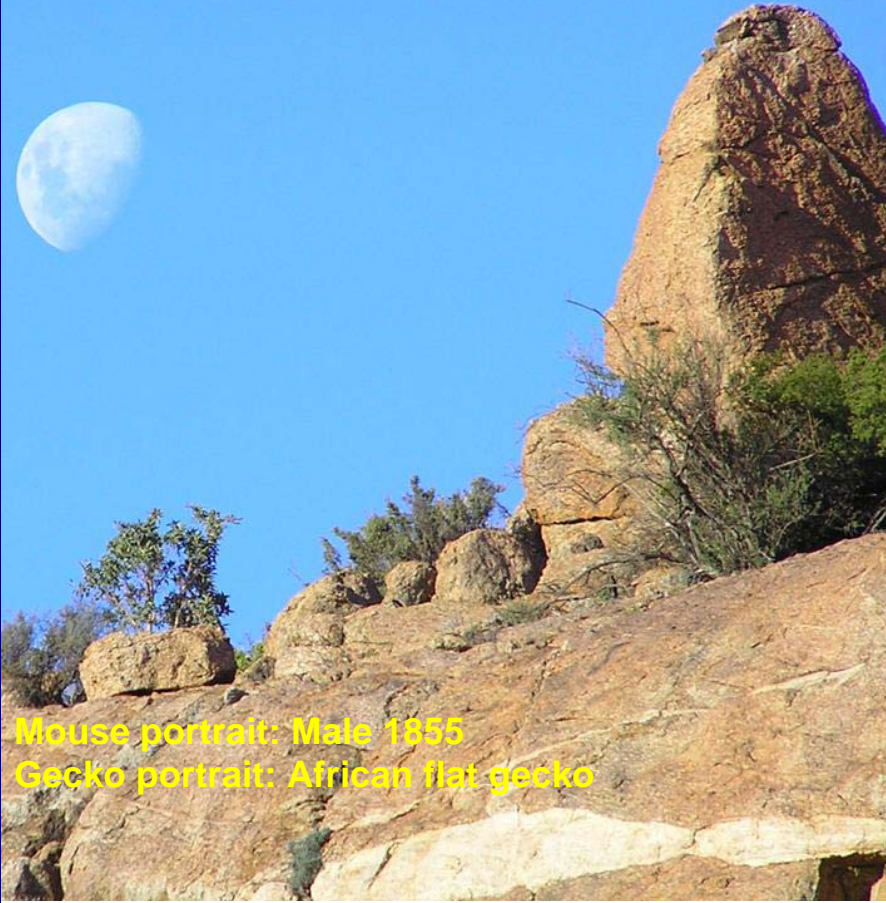


FSM-TIMES

FourStripedMouse

Title: Walking in Baboon Steps`



Mouse portrait: Male 1855
Gecko portrait: African flat gecko

IMPRESSUM

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WELCOME TO THE FIFTEENTH ISSUE OF THE FSM-TIMES!



Dear Reader,

As always, the months April to June were relatively quiet. The breeding season was nearly over, apart from a few females that used the unexpected summer rain for some extra reproductive success. This was welcomed by us, as the mouse population had declined a lot due to heavy predation. The research station was becoming more deserted with the field assistants leaving, as well as Maarten, the last research station manager. He was replaced by Ed Yuen, who is already involved in the striped mouse project since 2006. Ed started working on establishing a system to measure personality traits in

striped mice which we want to study in future. Also, many changes occurred at the research station: Two new Wendy Houses have been erected, the new research station car arrived, the solar system will get a wind turbine for support and a stronger new solar inverter will be installed, such that we might be able to run our fridges on solar power instead of the expensive gas. These new developments at the research station are still under way and will be the title story of the next issue. In this issue you will learn something about the second primate species in Goegap (apart from researchers and students), which are the baboons. I hope you will enjoy this issue.

Kind regards,

Carsten Schradin

THE DIFFERENT PLACES AND LOCATIONS

South Africa

As the name says, it is the most southern country in Africa. South Africa lies at the Cape of Good Hope. The population of South Africa (40 million) consists of black South Africans (e.g. the Zulu), which represent 75% of the population. 12% are white, 8% coloured, and some are Indian, Malaysian or descendants of the San (bushman). South Africa is the only industrialized country in Africa with a very good infrastructure.

Succulent Karoo

It describes a special vegetation type. It receives low rainfall in winter and is characterized by dwarf succulent shrubs and an amazing wildflower display in spring. It is a desert to semi-desert environment. Succulent Karoo is found in Namaqualand and southern Namibia. In the FSM-TIMES, the words succulent Karoo and Namaqualand are often used as synonyms.

Namaqualand

It is situated in the northwest of South Africa, between Cape Town and Namibia. Famous for its wildflower display in spring, Namaqualand was one of the world's most important copper mining areas at the beginning of the 20th century. Nowadays the diamond mines are more important. Because of its dry desert like climate, agriculture is mainly absent and population density low. Namaqualand is part of the Northern Cape Province.

Springbok

It is the capital of Namaqualand. Although Springbok has only around 20 000 inhabitants, it has shops for nearly everything, including two well stocked supermarkets. At weekends Springbok is very busy, when all Namaqualanders come here to do their shopping.

Goegap Nature Reserve

Pronounced as "Guchap", this nature reserve lays only 20kms outside of Springbok. In spring it is visited by thousands of tourists that are attracted by its wildflower display. During other times of the year it is very quite and mountain zebra, gemsbok, springbok, aardwolf, mice and mice researchers live in peace.

Field Site

This is the place in nature where the scientist collects his data. So our field site is where we observe the mice

NAMAQUALAND-WEATHER

By Ed Yuen

The stormy season is officially over in Goegap. The last real thunderstorm (55.3 mm of rain!) occurred in May. Since then, the weather has clearly shifted towards winter, and we finally experienced some very cold nights (more than once the thermometer recorder temperature below 5 °C). Besides the large downpour in May, we did not receive much rain during the last three months. However, due to the heavy rainfall between January and March, many flowers have already started to bloom and the field site looks very much like one would expect it to look like in spring and not winter. However, the real winter, with its mists and gentle rain, is just around the corner. Once here, we will probably be hoping for the climate that we have now.

<i>The last three months</i>	April	May	June
<i>Minimum temperatures</i>			
<i>night</i>	18.2	13.2	11.8
<i>day</i>	0.3	0.9	2.8
<i>Maximum temperatures</i>			
<i>night</i>	30.9	29.2	24.2
<i>day</i>	20.2	19.1	13.4
<i>Nights with frost</i>	0	0	0
<i>Rainfall in mm</i>	0	64.3	24.0
<i>Days with rain</i>	0	4	5

THE PEOPLE IN GOEGAP

By Ed Yuen

The past three months was the departure season in Goegap. At the

end of March, Carsten completed his dry season visit and returned to

Switzerland. At the same time, Ivana and I also returned home to visit our friends and family. However while Ivana was going to remain in Europe for 3 months to enroll as a PhD student at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, I was going to return to Goegap to take over the management of the research station in May. Not even three days had passed since our departure that Claudia Sobé, one of our field assistants also had to leave Goegap behind. It was not a surprise that Elena, the other field assistant, was the person who felt the saddest about her departure, as the two had become really close friends during their stay at the research station. Apparently, she was so upset that she cried all night when they went back to Goegap after they had sent Claudia off. For Elena it wasn't an easy time. Losing Claudia was a big blow for her, but as if that was not heart breaking enough, at the end of April, Maarten, another one of Elena's good friends at the research station was leaving just two weeks later. Maarten had been the research station manager since May 2006. During his term, Maarten had done a good job to

keep the research station standing, kept the mice in line, and sorted out all kinds of big and small problems. But such as life is all good things must come to an end, at the end of April, Maarten also had to leave. Elena was again very sad. However this time, she did not need to suffer for so long: Soon it was also her time to go home and continue her studies at the university. Hence since Elena's departure in mid-May only David and I remain at the research station. Suddenly the place has become very quiet. Since I have been here, this is the longest time when there were only two people at the research station. Certainly it is very different from the time when we had seven to eight people running around the house. However, this quietness did not last long: End of June Keenan Morrison from the US arrived as field assistant, and he will stay until October. And in July 3 more field assistants, Ivana and Carsten with family will arrive, and in August two MSc students. Then it will be really crowded here. So, we will enjoy the quietness now while we can and be prepared for the busy time ahead of us.

FROM THE SUCCULENT KAROO TO THE ALPS

By Ivana Schoepf

In the end of February we finally had the good news: the grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation came through. Though the funds were considerably less than we expected, this meant that I could finally „officially“ start my PhD at the University of Zurich. Hence at the beginning of April, I packed my bags ready to leave Goegap for three months. I was going to spend some time in Switzerland where, among other things, I was

going to register at the university in Zurich. This was a very exciting time for me. I was entering a very important stage of my life, where I was passing from being a post-master student looking for a job to becoming a fully-fledged PhD student, with a permanent position (well, permanent for at least the next three years!). Suddenly my future was not so uncertain anymore! This really represented a huge step forward in my career: a step that I had

been waiting to take for a very long. A step, however, that no matter how long I had been preparing for, I still lived as an overwhelming experience.

Truth said I actually had been an „unofficial“ PhD student for sometime. I had, in fact, started collecting data for my project since August 2006. But, the feeling of being a „Doktorand “ – as PhD students are called here in Switzerland – really sunk in only once I had been in Zurich for a couple of weeks. And even then I still had trouble believing it: had I really become a PhD student? Was I really going to spend the next three years of my life working on the sociality of the striped mice? Surely, this was just a dream, from which I was going to wake up at any moment...

No, it was not a dream. It was true! Finally, my wish had become reality. Now, dear reader, I know what you are probably thinking: „ok, we get the point. You are a PhD student“. Well, I am sorry to brag about it but you really must try and understand my point of view. After several grant rejections, when you finally get a positive answer, it really is hard to believe. I am sure that many people that have gone through a similar process well understand what I am saying here!

So, here I am, finally in Zurich. „And how is Zurich, and the university?“ you are probably wondering. Well, Zurich is a very beautiful city with nice restaurants and cafes. It is safe (among the safest) and its quality of life is apparently the highest in the world (well, at least according to an online survey conducted by Mercer). It is very green, it has a lake where you can swim in and the mountains are just a stone throw away. The University is also very nice. It offers all the latest services and the people are friendly and helpful. My office in the animal behaviour department is tucked away in a nice quiet corner of the campus

and I always have stimulating conversations with the people I work with, and my job is always interesting and exciting. By being in Switzerland, I

How to become a field assistant?

Only people with a biological background can become field assistants. These are students of biology, veterinary medicine or related areas. The work of field assistants includes: radio-tracking, trapping and marking of small mammals, behavioural observations, work at the research station, including maintenance, and much more. People interested in working as a field assistant for 2-3 months write an email to info@stripedmouse.com. Please write a short motivation and attach a CV. You will then obtain more information.



am also closer to my family in Italy. This allowed me to visit them twice already! What else could I possibly wish for? Well, truth told, nothing really. I am indeed very lucky. Still I miss the mice and the open spaces of South Africa (the fact that my boyfriend is there, might also have something to do with it...). Well, soon enough I will be seeing them again, and in less than three weeks I will be waving goodbye to Zurich and saying hello to Goegap, where I am expected to stay for a period of ten months. I can hardly wait. I am sure that in a few months' times I

will probably be thinking the same about Zurich, however...

Goegap Nature Reserve

Accommodation: Guesthouse, bush hut, camp site.

4x4 routes, tourist route for all cars, two hiking trails.

Tel: +27 27 718 99 06

Fax: +27 277181286

HOMEPAGE: STRIPEDMOUSE.COM

By Carsten Schradin

Our homepage was visited more than twelve thousand times last quarter, more often than any other quarter before! The reason for this is unknown, but of course we are very happy about this. In contrast, there were relatively few downloads of the FSM-TIMES. This low number might be partly due to the fact that our homepage offers so

much information in the meantime, that the downloads of my issues of the FSM-TIMES do not occur in the statistics anymore. Only the 30 most often downloads occur, each being higher than 100, and maybe 12 issues of the FSM-TIMES were downloaded 50 times every month?

	April	May	June	Total last quarter
Visits of stripedmouse.com	4064	4495	3723	12 282
Downloads FSM-TIMES, SGM-Spiegel	398	144	187	729

TITLE: WALKING IN BABOONS` STEPS

By David Lehmann (text and pictures)

The first time I heard the strange call I was on the main field site, practising radio tracking. Because I was really into what I was doing, I thought this sound was coming from a dog, walking and barking somewhere. But when the second scream reached my ears, I thought then that the sound was more like a dog crossed with a donkey crossed with a human. The curiosity took me instantly and I started to scan the environment around me. After a while, I saw many small black patches moving close to the hill in front of me. I was quite far but I could distinguish what it was, a savage tribe of Chacma baboon.

They saw me first, that was the reason for the vigilant call. Indeed I could already observe an interesting fact. Five adults were posing in front of the group, looking at me, and were spaced from one another more than fifty meters or so. After what seemed to be a robust and strong shield of brave males (they were really big, their calls were deep and powerful), I noticed smaller individuals, even a few juveniles, foraging and digging with their fingers on the ground searching

for seeds and insects. The call to the vigilant individuals came from different places. They would scream and move towards the side of the hills' to take refuge if I attempt to walk towards them, while all the group members seemed to be alerted. I heard later that they were hunted for sport by the farmers. Consequently they were scared of me, and as I progressed to them, their calls became shriller and I noticed that call of the females had a higher-pitch than the males'.

When I arrived at the hill where they had taken refuge, I was finally close. Maybe 20 meters from the first individuals which were always shielding the rest of the group. I started to count them (around twenty), still progressing and taking pictures, when I noticed something wrong in the baboons' behaviour, something a bit disturbing. They were not scared anymore; I had entered their world. A world of cliffs, stones and hard grounds (picture 1). Suddenly the ambiance changed, and I saw more than 6 adults coming slowly towards me, closer and closer, screaming, moaning and barking.



Picture 1: On the hill's side in Goegap, on the baboontrack, where climbing is just not an option

was looking for clues of their presence, the hole in the ground with the rest of big seeds or bulbs, the footprints in the sand and the characteristic faeces. Furthermore the views, the colors, the smells and all the mysterious plants and animals of Goegap as well as the pleasure of walking off road, jumping and running between the rocks made a perfect mix of discovery and life sciences. Adventure is (I wish it will always be) deeply anchored in my conception of being a field scientist. The geology here is one of the oldest in the world that met several metamorphic periods. The Karoo which initially was a basin becomes a plateau under the push of ancient granitic rocks, whispering to us from deep time. This results in a cascade of scares, cracks, morphs and anarchic mineral inclusions that make the stones really interesting (and complicate) to read. Despite the fact that the wind, the hydrothermal alterations and the cold/heat fractures tend to erase the strength of this history, you still feel the powerful soul of this earth (picture 2).

Hum...ok, at this time it was my turn to feel uncomfortable; their teeth were incredibly long and sharp, their arms filled with extra big muscles. And all were looking at me with an expression of both curiosity and the determination to make me retreat. So, well...I did. After a last photo shoot I moved to the base of the hill, into the valley, and came back to the research station while the baboons are still screaming in the background. They were singing victory.

I was quite excited by this first encounter and decided to find them every single spare day. I was working on the farm, and due to the vast field site we have there, I was quite busy during the week. But when I was free, it was not long before all my stuff were packed and not too soon before. I took my first steps into the wilderness.

Sometimes it took me five hours or more before I found them, but it was part of the game and really exiting. I

When I was following the group trough the mountains; it was always challenges and surprises.



Picture 2: View on the Goegap Nature Reserve: reddish colours, huge sky and hard grounds.

The challenge was to try and make the same movement as them. I wanted to do exactly the same exercise between the rock and the cliff but those primates are really faster and a much more accurate climber than me, so I was forced to choose an easier road. It's amazing to see how they progress on the walls; it's like us on the field. And they play, fight and chase in the same time. It was a nice try to stay with them and good cardio training and I was just happy: sport, nature, animals. The most perfect day off!

Another surprise was how my presence close to them involved some clever reactions. They were always

under control, they always knew where and how far I was. I was usually watched by 5-6 individuals, who were walking in front of me. And they came up with some nice tricks, like making me go different way than the rest of the group, that I couldn't see (essentially juveniles, young adults and females carrying young or not), by simulating some action behind a rock. So I was going there to see what was going on, and the time I got there they had disappeared. Once they tried this game, I hid between two rocks and waited. After 10 minutes I heard them coming back, progressing slowly towards the group (the opposite way). When I heard a female really close to my cache, I could not resist popping out like hell. Poor girl...she was so afraid that I still heard her screaming for the next fifteen minutes. I know that it was a bad joke to play on the poor baboon, but it was so funny. The males didn't find it funny at all, they were making noise but it wasn't laugh, and I had to distance myself, quickly.

I kept my eyes on the majority of males, but some big females were also taking part in this tight vigilance. They all seemed to be fit and strong, but one male in particularly caught my attention (picture 3). He kept to himself in the background, quiet and looking at the scene from a higher rock while my body guards seemed to be more bothered by my presence. This big male was accompanied by two females and the others were alternatively looking at him and at me. It seemed like they were waiting for an instruction from him to control my moves, to keep me a save distance from the rest of the group.



Picture 3: This big male by his disinvest posture, harm crossed on his knee and showing his virility, seems to advertise that he is not impressed by me. When I saw his teeth, I understood why.

At one time I went really close to the first individuals (~5-6 meters). He was distracted by this succulent plant growing between two rocks, and forgot his task for a short time. Enough time to be distanced by its conspecifics and approached by me. When he noticed me so close, his first reaction was to escape of course, but also to call in the direction of the big male. In response, the big male made a really big scream followed by several sounds coming from the throat. Some males tried to frighten me with intimidating postures, low frequency sounds and visible teeth. During this operation, the biggest male didn't move that much and I thought that maybe he occupied a higher social position in the group. Even if *The Book (The Complete Book of Southern African Mammals; Mills & Hes)* says that there is no well definite dominance among the males,

that doesn't mean there is no dominance at all.

This time I was really scared and ran away like a rabbit smelling a fox. But it was not the best thing to do because they sensed my fear (damn: I forgot the survival rule number 3). The dogs are good for that and I have no difficulties to imagine that the baboons may be even more sensitive. So they were confident in the fact that I lost control, and so they started to follow me. At this moment I remember what I read once "...the baboons can become aggressive when used to human...". I thought that these ones started to adjust well to my presence.

On another occasion they showed me their dark side. Usually they displayed nice behaviours such as grooming each other. The grooming act seems to be essential to keep close relationship. This permits the

individuals to trust each other, allowing a good cohesion within a united group. But I was lucky to observe a not so nice interaction, and realized how this species that I thought was quite peaceful could be extremely violent too. It was a day of extreme heat. The baboons were lying on the rocks (picture 4), waiting for a cooler time to go down in the valley to forage. I was far away, approximately 40-60 meters, because I wanted to observe them with as little disturbances as possible. The juveniles were playing, fighting and making a lot of noise. The females were grooming the males and well, it was a good moment of relaxation between nice people. From my post I could observe an average sized male baboon coming from the other side of the crest. This individual attracted my attention by his carefully, quiet progression. After a while, I understood the possible way of his desire. He was attracted by the young female (she was quite small) sitting a bit out of the group. With my binocular I could see that she was in oestrus (her vagina was red and

swollen). Because he was in front of the wind, my tribe didn't catch his presence until he was close to this female (she was looking in this way discretely, so I thought she was curious, maybe open...). At this time a big female spotted the intruder and immediately called the guards. The big male (truly big!) ran to him screaming. It was like the hunts' opening. The big male tried to catch and hurt him, HE was in charge. He was assisted by three males and two females, always a bit behind. So they were five running after this sneaky male, which was trying to escape, completely disoriented. As you can see on my pictures, the baboons' teeth could be deadly if used as weapon. And I sincerely hope he didn't take a bite. But because I was far, I couldn't see what was happening after they were behind the crest; but the sounds coming from there were terrible...anger, fear and pain. I would also say that at this time the big male seemed to have an important, determinant place in this action; like the one who does what needs to be done.



Picture 4: Enjoying baboon live in Goegap!

From my side I was a bit shocked, looking at the scene from my rock. I was thinking that I was lucky to scare them just by my scent. And also that I will never try to seduce one of their female, even if the loneliness of Goegap become one day a bit too heavy (yes...at twenty three years old you still got a lot of hormones). But I can also try to interpret this observation in another way; and look more to the behaviour of the intruder. It is probable that this young male wasn't belonging to this group, and I can suppose that is was attract by this pretty girl. I also read that the baboons can be solitary, even if in majority they form social groups. But if this new individual was coming from another group, he must have been

traveling for quite a while. I expect that the home range of the baboons in Goegap must be quite large. But in this case of rejection, could he go back to his natal group? Or is he condemned, under the dispersion or eviction pressure, to live alone; roaming and trying "to seduce" female to raise his own group (or maybe just to disperse his genes)? Well, I am sure now you have enough information to let your imagination, in addition with your theoretical background, figure out the exhaustive life of this species. But I want to finish this story with the description of the mating behaviour, at least the one I did observe several times. It seems that it's the female to make the first move



Picture 5: I am taking care of you

First they come to the lucky one and turn a bit around him. Then they undertake a complete and serious check up of the male' hairy body (picture 5). This one, which appears not too concerned, makes himself comfortable on the rock. When the grooming is finished (approximately after 15 minutes) the female makes one or two rounds around the male, checking whether she has forgotten

any parasites. Then she presents her bottom, tale raised and placed on the side of the body, straight in the face of the male (picture 6). This one understands without difficulty what his hairdresser wants from him. And hop. The copulation is really short, maybe 20 seconds for the slower, and that go with the satisfaction sounds of the female who sees her effort rewarded (picture 7).



Picture 6: Would you take care of me?



Picture 7: Now it is taken care of !

That was really nice to witness; commonly during our studies we learn the difficult way of the sexual selection, with all the hard investment of the male to gain access to the females. It seemed to be not the case here. But it is probably because those individuals remain from the same group and are involved in some kind of friendship relation where the selection or "sexual affinity" is already

established among the individuals. Also, it is just my own interpretation of what I observed and that cannot be in any case taken as a scientific verity. But maybe a few clues that I could investigate for papers about baboons. So I hope you enjoyed this short story about wildlife in Goegap and maybe on the next occasion tell you what happens when you meet a stallion Zebra on the field, at night.

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT PLANTS AND ANIMALS

MOUSE PORTRAIT: MALE 1855

By Ivana Schoepf

Mother: unknown	Father: unknown
Date of birth: breeding season 2005 (Sep?)	Date of Death: May 2007
Age: probably 20 months (Sep 05 – May 07)	Cause of Death: unknown
Partners: while at group 6 (F1206, F1702, F1856, F2024). At group 27 (F2410, F2462, F2554, F2560, F2644)	
Children: 18	Grand-children: unknown

Male 1855 was the breeding male from group 6 (S214, S132). When he was born or where he came from, we do not know for sure. From the information we have, we can guess that perhaps, he was born during the breeding season of 2005 from a group neighboring the main field site. How or when he came to be the breeding male at group 6 is also uncertain, as when I met him for the first time in July 2006, his position within the group was already well established. I first noticed M1855 when radio-tracking. I had just arrived in Goegap and I was being trained as a field assistant. Carsten had given me some groups to radio-track (group 4, 6 and 8) and I had just begun learning their location in the field. As they days progressed, I started notice that whenever I was around group 6, a certain blond ass mouse was

coming out of the bushes. That mouse was M1855 who was a very successful breeding male, with an enviable harem of females: in September 2006, he could count at least four breeding females (F1206, F1702, F1856 and F2024)! He also fathered several offspring, including a very special male (M1763), which remained in the natal nest until well into adulthood. While he might have been a tolerant father, what he certainly did not tolerate were intruders in his territory. During nest observation, he was in fact sometimes seen chasing away intruders. M1855 never backed down from a fight at his nest, even when the opponent was much bigger than he was, as in the case of Male 1253. M1253 was a huge (86g) breeding male from the neighboring group 15. When M1253 came to visit group 6,

all the other individuals ran away, but not M1855! M1855 always stood his ground even though he „only“ weighed a mere 76g in comparison! While he did not like intruders around his nest, he certainly liked to intrude on the other groups' territories. So sometimes, while observing one of the neighboring groups (e.g. group 15, 3, 7, 16 and 27), you would see him running around. I guess, in the case of group 15, he just liked to repay the visits made by M1253! Later on in the year, after all his

females had disappeared, M1855 moved to a new group (Group 27 in the grass). He successfully remained in „charge“ there until May 2007 when he disappeared. Last time I saw M1855, he was having a banquet with a dead bush Karoo rat near his new nest at the grass. Even though, he is now gone, I will always have a special place in my memory for M1855, as he was the first mouse that really made an impression on me!



M1855 was Ivana's favorite !

GECKOPORTRAIT: AFRICAN FLAT GECKO (*AFROEDURA AFRICANA*)

By Ramona Pötzing

This is an endemic species with three races, but only *A. a. namaquensis* occurs in this region. So far no

specimen has been reported from Goegap, but it might occur here. Identification: A large flat gecko with an elongate flattened body that is

covered with small granules. The back is pale yellow to buff with 5-6 wavy dark brown bands, the belly is white-yellow. The tail is segmented. Biology and breeding: They live under flakes on the shaded surfaces of large granite boulders, where they

are protected from the midday heat. They lay two thin-shelled eggs in rock cracks. These hatch in approximately 100 days. Predators include snakes. Habitat: Rocky desert and succulent karoo veld.

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

- Schradin, C. 26 June 2008. Personalities in the Animal Kingdom. Trial lecture for the habilitation, *University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland*.
- Schradin, C. 4. June 2008. Alternative male reproductive tactics in the African striped mouse. Invite talk, *Veterinary University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria*.
- Schradin, C. 22. May 2008. Socio-genetics of African striped mice. *Board of trustees of the Julius-Klaus Stiftung, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland*.
- Schradin, C. 24. April 2008. Alternative male reproductive tactics in the African striped mouse. Invite talk, *Queens University Belfast, Belfast, U.K.*
- Schradin, C. 11. April 2008. Endocrine ecology of social flexibility. Talk, *Zoologisches Symposium, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland*.

POPULAR SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

- Radio broadcast about animal fathers (27 min) Interview with Carsten Schradin about paternal care. 30. April 2008. Broadcast *IQ - Wissenschaft und Forschung from Bayern 2*.

FUNDING OF RESEARCH: CALL FOR DONATIONS

SUBSCRIBERS DONATION

We appeal to all subscribers of the FSM-TIMES to donate 100 Rand (10 Euro, 15 Swiss Franks or 15 dollars) a year for research on the socio-ecology of small mammals in Goegap. Larger donations are welcome and donors of 500 Rand (50 Euro, 75 dollars) will be mentioned in the next FSM-TIMES. Donations will be used for the following purposes:

1. Scientific research on small mammals in Goegap, especially smaller research projects such as Diploma and PhD theses, which have difficulties in raising funds elsewhere.
 2. Improving the infrastructure of the research station.
- In the last issue of the FSM-TIMES of every year we will publish how much we received in donations and how the money was used.

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THE MOUSE'S TAIL

JACKAL BUZZARDS WANTED

By Ed Yuen

The wicked Jackal Buzzards are continuing their attacks towards our peace-loving striped mouse community. In the latest development, photographic evidence

had captured a Jackal Buzzard brutally abducting (and probably murdering) one of our beloved rodent friends.



THE CLEVER MICE JUST GOT CLEVERER

By Ed Yuen

The mice trap-opening skill is getting better and better, they can now open the trap's door in just 0.81 seconds! This is a real record! This just leaves us, researchers, with no time to reach the traps from our observation seats. Moreover, it seems that they have still few tricks up their sleeves that they can show us. One of their favourites lately is waiting until the traps are un-set before going in and enjoying the

bait. Well, why rush when you can enjoy the food later and without the hassle that come with it. The arms (traps) race between the researchers and the mice will continue.
(Remark by Carsten: 100 new and expensive traps of the brand Sherman are on their way from the USA to Goegap. Hopefully these traps will stop the nonsense of the mice).

GOLDEN MOUSE PRIZE-WINNERS

2007: GOEGAP NATURE RESERVE

2006: DR. GUSTL ANZENBERGER

2005: JENS SCHRADIN