GRAYIA SMITHII (Leach, 1818)
Smith's African Water Snake

DIET
order to eat the catfish’); we could however not trace this fish in the MNHN collections. We hereafter report the stomach content of an adult female G. smithii (MNHN 1987.1419; SVL 995 mm, tail length >392, ventrals 159, subcaudals >91), collected in Congo Brazzaville, Epena (1°21’N 17°28’E) area, which had ingested the exceptional number of 20 fishes representing four species of Cichlidae. This specimen was already quoted in a list of the Congolese snake species by Trape & Roux-Estève (1995. J. Afr. Zool., 109(1): 31-50). The circumstances of its capture are quite unusual and deserve some comments. It was given to one of us (J.-F. T.) by Mr Roy Mackal who caught it during a cryptozoological expedition (October-December 1981) devoted to the study of a large cryptid called Mokele-Membe, said to resemble Mesozoic sauropods. The report of the expedition with a map of the research area was given by Mackal et al. (1982. Cryptozoology, 1: 62-72). The snake was precisely caught during the return passage of the expedition, while the cryptozoologists were hardly progressing by dugout in the narrow 20-miles Djembé canal linking the Tanga River to the Ubangi River. The list of the 20 fishes is as follows (their respective standard length in mm from tip of snout to base of caudal fin is indicated between brackets, with a precision of 0.05 mm): 8 Hemichromis sp. (33.50, 35.00, 40.65, 41.65, 44.00, 45.00, 46.25, 47.55), 3 Thoracochromis sp. (61.90, 86.60, 91.55), 2 Tilapia sp. (45.90, 46.35), and 7 Cichlidae sp. (40.00, 45.40, 46.80, 48.00, 48.65, 50.05, 50.05).


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GRAYIA ORNATA (Bocage, 1866)
Ornate Water Snake

DIET
The African Ornate Water Snake is distributed in the swamps and rivers of Equatorial Africa. Very little data on its biology and food habits are available in the literature. Chirio (1998. Les serpents du Cameroun. C.R.P. Bafoussam, Projet Paseca, A.F.C. Dschang, Yaounde, pp. 1-37) mentioned that Grayia ornata is aquatic and piscivorous and goes on land only for basking and egg laying. Moreover Chippaux (1999. Les serpents d’Afrique occidentale et centrale. IRD Editions, Paris, pp 1-278) specified that the species is also “arboreal” in that it hunts from branches overhanging the water. Due to the lack of precise data on the diet of G. ornata, we think appropriate to provide hereafter two cases of ichthyophagy for the species.

The stomach of the young male MNHN 1995.9386 (SVL 288 mm, tail length 110 mm, ventrals 150, subcaudals 85) from Equatorial Guinea, Monte Alen National Park, donated by Carlos Lasso, contains a Parauchenoglanis sp. (Siluriformes, Claroteidae (ex Bagridae) (total length 78 mm).

The stomach of the adult female IRSNB 11193 (SVL 800 mm, tail length 260 mm, ventrals 156, subcaudals 76) collected by natives on 22 March 1950 in Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo), Parc