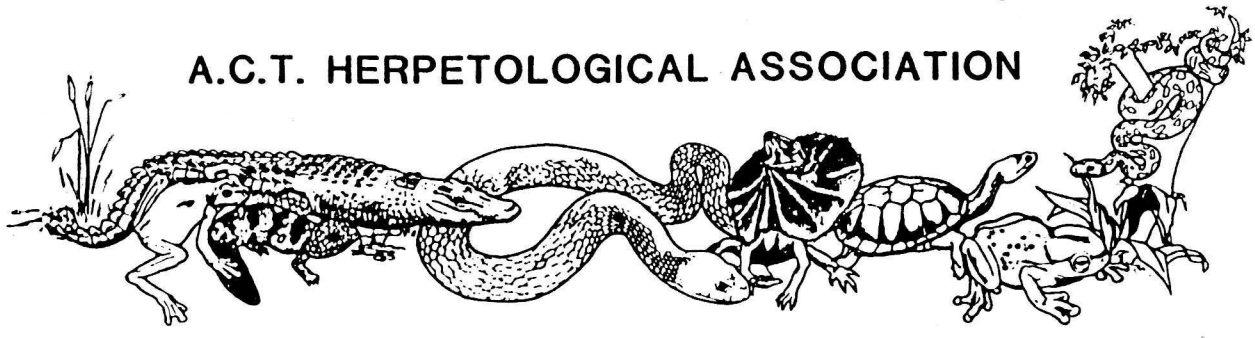


A.C.T. HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Well, it seems that our experiment of letting people collect their newsletters at the meetings was a dismal failure. We only had a turn up of eight members at last meeting - everybody else forgot without the reminder in the mail a few days beforehand, so its back to the old system again. You all missed out on a 'controversal' meeting, where the possibility of a new species occuring in the ACT was discussed, but hopefully, a couple of people will contribute some items on the subject and you can judge for yourself.

Next meeting is on **WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY, 1988 at 7 30 pm**

At very short notice, a talk will be given by Dean Ward on the Herpetofauna of Indochina ie mainly Thailand. This explains why this letter is so short - I can't do everything. Also, members are requested to bring along an item of herpetological interest to show the other members - DONT worry, you won't have to get up and give a speech - it will be very informal.

Those members that missed out on our bumper Xmas issue newsletter can pick one up at the meeting in January. In the business part of the meeting, I would like to discuss our Association amalgamating with the groups that produce Herpetofauna. We would not lose any autonomy, but gain many advantages such as exchange of ideas, combined field trips etc.

Finally, a couple of members have had papers published since last newsletter. Klaus Henle or Dean Ward would probably show you if you are interested. In the future, if any member has a paper published let me know and I'll put a note in the newsletter.

See you all on Wednesday.

DEAN WARD, EDITOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, GPO BOX 4, CANBERRA 2601

Animal smokes

The Indian Government was accused this week of allowing prisoners to smoke burnt lizards to get "high". Apparently, the prisoners have been catching lizards, drying them over burning cow dung and crushing the residue into a powder. This powder, which is smoked using an earthen pipe, is said to be a

powerful intoxicant. But the accusations have been strongly denied by the minister responsible for prisons, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi. Asked in Parliament whether lizard-smoking was prevalent in Indian jails, Mr Panigrahi replied: "No sir." Perhaps if someone were to donate a plane ticket to India we could send Michael "Sex Frolic" Yabsley to investigate.

SMH
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