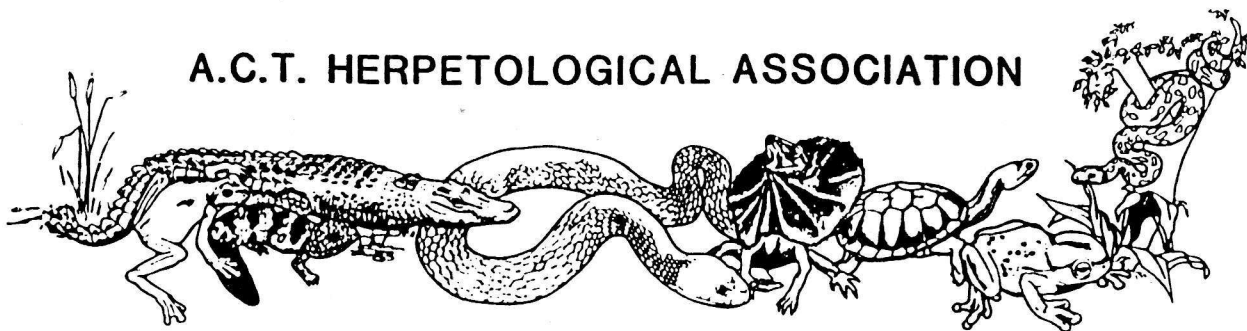


## A.C.T. HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Firstly, apologies for the brief newsletter. Next month however, we are trying a new format and content, and the newsletter will be a more educational and enjoyable read. Start thinking (and writing!) now, because the new edition will require that members send in contributions regularly. It does not matter how well you write, just send in anything to do with herpetology.

Unfortunately, due to illness in Sue Tudor's household, the field trip for November has to be cancelled, but a new project is in the wings, and it will provide many easily organised day trips.

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At the time of press, we have no talk finalised for the November meeting, but that is sure to change, so don't despair and turn up anyway. Sylvia Spring, whom was to give this month's talk, apologises that she cannot make it, but promises to give a talk at the February or March meeting next year. Our night will kick off at **7.30 pm** business meeting, and the talk will begin at 8.00 pm on **Wednesday, 25th November 1987.**

Please feel free to bring any item or animals of interest to members to have a look at on the night.

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### Reptilian escapades

Obviously upset by the increasing number of ridiculous stories emanating from China, the Soviet media have struck back.

*Pravda* reported yesterday that an 11-year-old girl in Azerbaijan had swallowed a 65-centimetre snake

after she fell asleep while picking tomatoes. The girl, who was identified only by her first name of Matanet, woke up choking and was rushed to a nearby clinic and made to drink two litres of saline solution. This made Matanet vomit and, as

*Pravda* put it, "out plopped the whole snake into the wash-basin."

Whether Ximua will be able to top this story remains to be seen.

### Girl talk

Two American researchers have just published a book about boyfriends, titled *The 100th Boyfriend*. Bridget Daly and Janet Skeels, of Seattle, talked to hundreds of women across the United States about the men in their lives. Here are some of the comments:

"My last boyfriend and I were together for five years. He taught me to be celibate."

"I am a lot more fabulous than the other guy. I am an ugly woman

so he fascinated me. One, I couldn't imagine living life that beautiful. Two, I couldn't figure out why he was attracted to me. Turned out he had a thing about reptiles, especially lizards, and he thought I looked like one. And moved like one. We dated for about a year."