

Studbook breeding programme

Ouroborus cataphractus (Armadillo Lizard)



Picture from Leipzig Zoo – www.zoo-leipzig.de

Annual report 2012

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1. Introduction

The biggest change since the last studbook report is the re-classification of the Armadillo Lizard. Previously known by the binomial name – *Cordylus cataphractus* - this species has now been allocated the new scientific name – *Ouroborus cataphractus*. Usually these scientific name changes take several years for them to become widely used.

2. Studbook Population

As at August 2012 the total studbook population is 68 specimens (22.18.28) of this, only 32 (14.14.4) are currently still living.

3. Locations

As far as the studbook is aware, this species is kept at 7 different locations throughout Europe. The only zoological establishment to have registered their animals within the studbook is Leipzig Zoo in Germany where they house 1.1 animals. There are a further 2.0 and 3.3 at private locations in Germany. The remaining animals within the studbook are housed at private locations throughout the European Union. 2.3 animals are housed in Sweden, 3.3 are housed in the Netherlands and by far the biggest population in France where 3.4.4 are housed.

4. Births

It is with mixed emotions that I report the birth of 2 babies in 2011. These babies unfortunately passed away within a month or two of being born.

5. Imports

No imports have been reported.

6. Deaths

Since the last report in 2009, I must report that the Studbook has lost a total of 9 (3.0.6) animals. Both individuals (000017 & 000024) held at the UK locations were lost during brumation in 2011. Youngsters produced in 2008 and 2011 (000058, 000061 & 000062) were lost at the French location. Animals 000045 & 000051 which were born on the 1st July 2005 and 21st July 2006 respectively were also lost at the same location. Male 000028 also passed away on the 24th January 2012. Leipzig Zoo also reported the passing of male 000008.

7. Transfers

Studbook reference 000068 joined the animals at Leipzig Zoo to promote breeding efforts.

8. Discussion Points

Animals 000018, 000020, 000022 & 000025 (0.0.4) which were being housed at a location in the UK and another 2.1.2 (000030, 000031, 000032, 000033 & 000034) animals should be considered lost to the studbook as no contact has been made for several years with this keeper.

Another interesting observation from the SPARKS report is the high number of infant mortality – 6 babies have passed away 000035, 000036, 000037, 000038, 000061 & 000062 within a day or two of being produced. This is surely something that needs to be looked at more closely in future.

9. 2011 – A year in review

Since taking over the administration of the Armadillo Studbook in June 2011, Fraser Gilchrist, along with the co-studbook keepers, Henk Zwartepoorte and Rene De Haas, have been working hard to raise the profile of this studbook and increase the cooperation between keepers of this species.

10. 2012 – A year in preview

Due to personal issues - Fraser Gilchrist has not been as active as he would have liked. -----