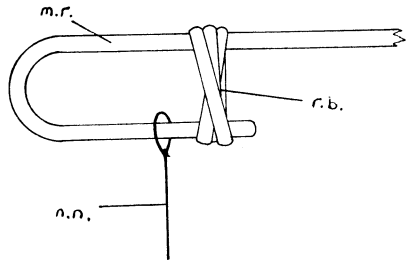

Coloured rubber-bands of red, yellow and white were found to act as a lure. Basking lizards show an interest in the band and raise their heads (presumably taking it to be an insect). The noose can then be slipped over the raised head. Raising of the head was not seen when using a similar arrangement which did not have a brightly coloured lure.

Lizards caught with this arrangement include *Lacerta muralis*, *L. sicula*, *L. melissellensis*, *Algyroides nigropunctatus* and several species of gecko.

HEATING SMALL CAGES FOR SMALL AMPHIBIA

Let us assume that somebody sends you, in the depths of winter, some small frogs from a tropical country and that, contrary to all expectations, these arrive alive. Apart from the worry of how to feed them, you will want to provide them with an atmosphere as close to their natural one as possible.

You can—assuming you have the space—rig up a Terra-Aquarium and heat this with one of the low wattage economy lamps now available. This, however, has grave disadvantages. First of all you produce as much light as heat and in the case of nocturnal animals the light is not wanted at all. Secondly the heat you produce rises to the top of the cage while the soil and the water remain cold. It is a better idea to heat the cage from below without, at the same time, producing any light at all. This can be done in the following way (see Fig. 1):

Make a perforated platform from any non-corroding metal (zinc, brass, galvanized steel) with three of four legs as long as convenient. To the bottom of this platform, which should fit easily into the cage, covering the whole floor, fit two clips, made from the same metal. One of these is to hold a 50 watt aquarium heater, the other an aquarium thermostat. The wires to go over the edge of the cage. On the platform put one thin layer of P.V.C. foam, now easily obtainable at Woolworth's, then fill the tank with water up to the level of the platform. The heater-thermostat combination will keep the tank at the desired temperature at all times. The heat will rise, no light but that of the little pilot lamp incorporated in the thermostat, is produced and the atmosphere is constantly water-saturated. Care must be taken when making the lid for the cage, to allow just enough room for the electric wire. A small dish to serve as a water bath must be provided. The rest may safely be left to the imagination of the herpetologist-handyman.

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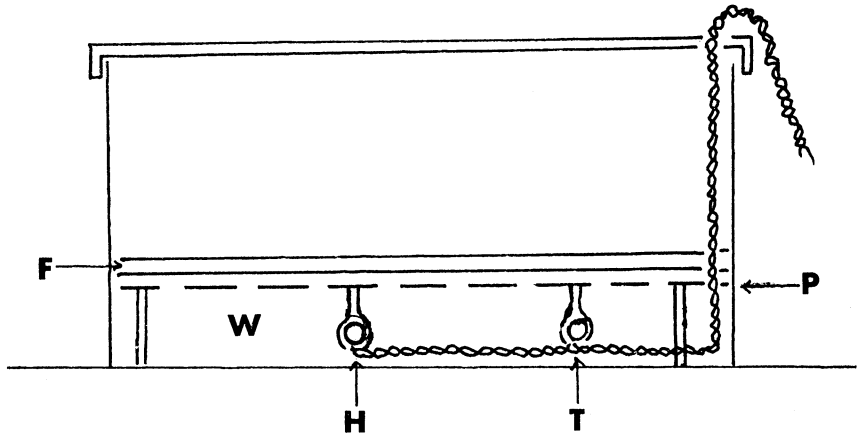

Fig. 1. Electrically heated small cage for tropical amphibian
F, Layer of P.V.C. foam; H, Aquarium heater, 50 W; P, Platform with legs; T, Thermostat; W, Space filled with water.

A CASE OF *ANGUIS FRAGILIS* DEVOURING NEWLY BORN YOUNG

A gravid blue-spotted slow worm caught in Penzance, Cornwall, in August 1966, gave birth to 8 young on the 5th September 1966, between 1.30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The same evening she was observed to seize and devour one of the young ones. Immediately after eating it she was seen in the act of attacking another one, which was rescued and transferred along with the others remaining, to another cage.

The evening before the same female was seen eating 3 large earthworms and 2 slugs. She seized her young in the same manner as slow worms do when attacking earthworms.

As there seem to be no references in the literature describing such behaviour in this species, the case is presumably worthy of record.

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OBSERVATIONS ON EGG DEPOSITION BY A SAND LIZARD

At noon on a warm sunny June day, near Frensham Common, a gravid female sand lizard was recognised near a vegetable patch on open sandy soil, where no lizards had been seen before. The lizard seemed to be searching the ground with its flicking tongue for insects or spiders. At the rim of a small plot she commenced to burrow using her feet. She emerged from the cavity several times to look around and rest, but finished digging within 20 minutes, so that the cavity was large enough for her to turn around completely, except for 1½ in. of tail protruding outside.

At 12.30 p.m. the tail twitched from time to time; presumably signs of egg deposition. On our return 45 minutes later the lizard had gone. The burrow had been carefully covered over though the spot was still recognizable.

The animal showed a complete disregard for the presence of three observers within a foot of her labours, though without doubt she must have been aware of them.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TSCHUDI: *CLASSIFICATION DER BATRACHIER*

A facsimile reprint of this herpetological classic (originally published in Neuchâtel, 1838; 120 pages, incl. 6 pls.; 7 × 10 inches) is scheduled for publication in Summer, 1967, by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. This reprint includes a 5-page introduction by Robert Mertens, with a portrait and bibliography of Tschudi. Price post paid, $4.00 paper bound ($2.00 to S.S.A.R. members); cloth bound copies $2.00 extra. Address orders to Joseph T. Collins, Secretary-Treasurer, S.S.A.R., 5807 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45212. A complete list of S.S.A.R. *Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology* may be obtained from the Publications Secretary, Dr. Henri C. Seibert, Department of Zoology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701.

PARTHENOGENESIS IN *LACERTA*

Dr. Ilja S. Darevsky, Curator of Herpetology at the Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, recently published a major paper entitled "Natural Parthenogenesis in a Polymorphic Group of Caucasian Rock Lizards Related to *Lacerta saxicola* Eversmann" (in *Jour. Ohio Herpetol. Soc.*, **5**(4): 115-152, pl. I (coloured), 1966); this is the first time that a complete account of this important work has been made available in English. Single copies may be obtained, post paid, from Dr. Henry C. Seibert, Ohio University.

THE ZOOLOGICAL RECORD

Section 16, *Amphibia* and 17, *Reptilia*

Herpetologists are invited to write for the leaflet and broadsheet which explains the purpose and working method of *The Zoological Record* and illustrates specimen columns.

The Zoological Record, founded in 1864, is an international bibliography and three-way reference system for zoologists and those in related sciences. Volumes, published annually, consist of twenty sections: eighteen record a year's literature relating to a Phylum or Class of the animal kingdom; another section is devoted to Comprehensive Zoology, and the final section lists new genera and subgenera. Each section is divided into an Author Index, a Subject and a Systematic Index, and is designed for easy reference and retrieval.

Those wishing to have quick access to Sections *Amphibia* and *Reptilia* may obtain these sections singly at £1 each for Volume 100 (1963 literature) and Volume 101 (1964 literature). Postage and packing extra.

The broadsheet and further information may be obtained from: The Publications Dept. (B.H.S.), The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, England.