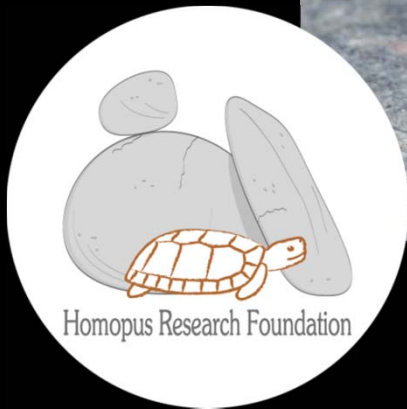


Long-term studbook management: *Homopus areolatus* and *H. signatus*

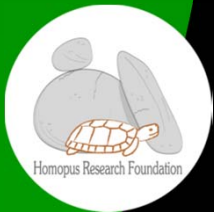


Homopus Research Foundation

Victor Loehr

Structure presentation

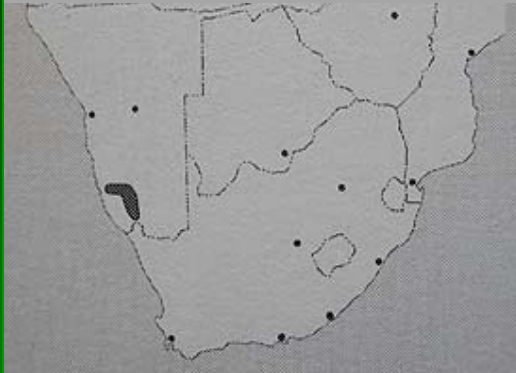
- *Genus Homopus*
- Registration vs. management
- How to get from registration to management:
 - *Homopus signatus*
 - *Homopus areolatus*
- Studbook management plans:
 - *Homopus signatus*
 - *Homopus areolatus*



Genus *Homopus*

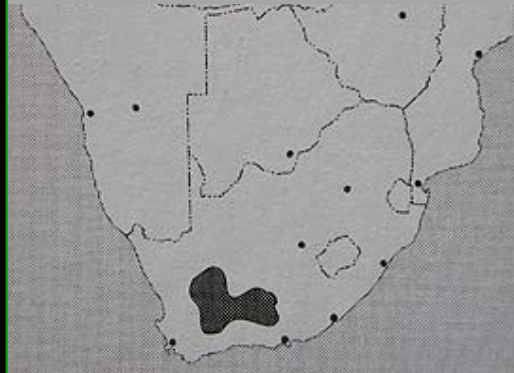
Homopus solus

Endangered



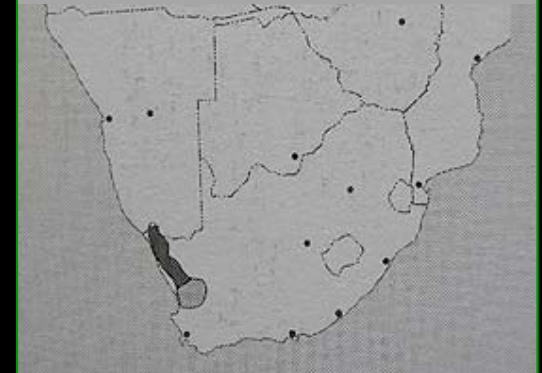
Homopus boulengeri

Vulnerable



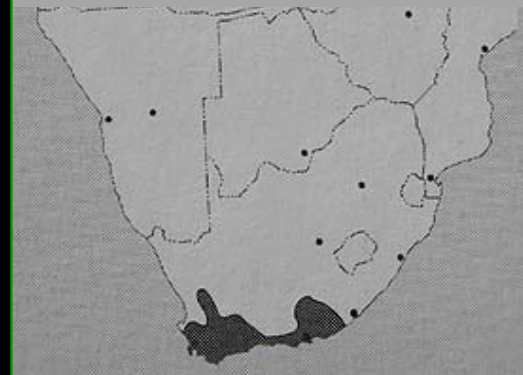
Homopus signatus

Vulnerable



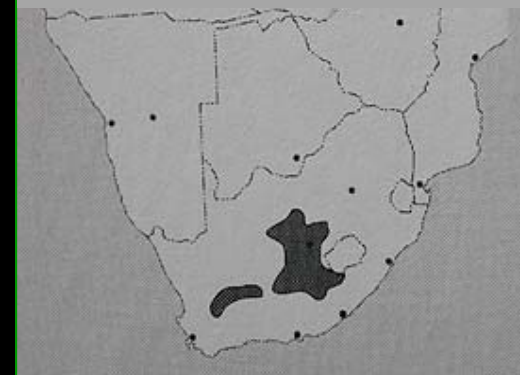
Homopus areolatus

Least Concern



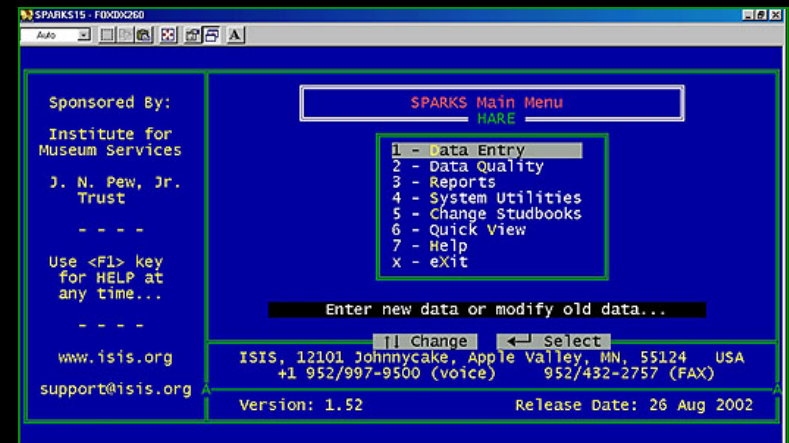
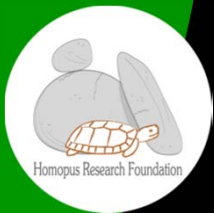
Homopus femoralis

Least Concern



Registration vs. management

- Private herp studbooks relatively new
- Focus on surveying and recruiting animals and keepers
- Registration systems (ZRBOOK, SPARKS, Sebag, online database ESF)



Registration vs. management

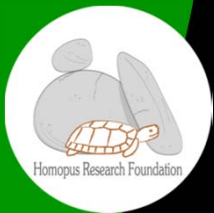
- Insight in captive population size, births, deaths, transfers
- Studbook structure used for information exchange



Registration vs. management

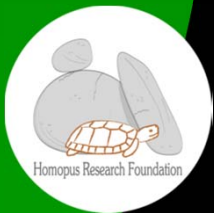


- Studbook registration is passive; 'tracking what has happened'
- Appealing only initially, losing interest later
- Studbook management is active; 'directing what will happen'
- Active approach empowers studbook keepers and participants



Registration vs. management

- For management, it is crucial that one knows what should happen
- What should happen, should be realistic to avoid disillusion



From registration to management

Homopus signatus

- Discussion paper (4 A4) with all conditions and possible scenarios/aims
- E-mail discussion, which did not work
- Meeting → decision + support!



From registration to management

Homopus signatus

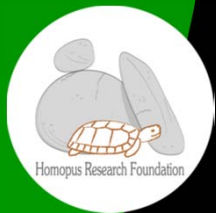
- Participants' decision developed in a draft plan, for review by participants
- Review by South African authorities
- Final studbook management plan (4 years after first initiative)
- 10 new founders imported in 2015



From registration to management

Homopus areolatus

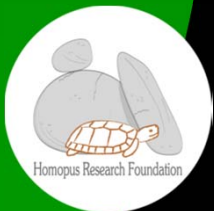
- Discussion paper (2 A4) with all conditions and possible scenarios/aims
- E-mail discussion and summary of responses → decision
- Participants' decision developed in a draft plan, for review by participants
- Departure of Swiss participants (little effect on genetic variation)



From registration to management

Homopus areolatus

- Final studbook management plan (2 years after first initiative)



From registration to management

- Key elements:
 - Participants are central in all efforts, without them there is no studbook
 - Take the lead, you are the studbook coordinator!
 - Be persistent and tenacious
 - Be patient, it is fine if this takes years
 - Guidance on genetics by ESF
 - Software that allows studbook management

