

bia it has been recorded east of the Andes in the Oriniquia and the Amazonia, present in the mountain range of the Macarena but without exceeding 750 m elev. (Pérez-Santos and Moreno 1988. Ofidios de Colombia. Monografía, Torino, 517 pp.). New state record for Colombia at the department of Córdoba and northernmost record from South America, extends known range to Cordillera Occidental ca. 600 km airline N from nearest locality.

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VIRGINIA VALERIAE ELEGANS (Western Smooth Earthsnake). USA: ARKANSAS: OUACHITA CO.: 0.6 km W of Hampton at Champagnolle Creek bridge on St. Hwy. 4 (Sec. 1, T14S, R14W). 14 October 2005. Patrick Daniel. Arkansas State University Museum of Zoology, Herpetological Collection (ASUMZ 30134). Verified by Stanley E. Trauth. New county record in southern Arkansas (Trauth et al. 2004. Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas, Univ. of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville. 421 pp.).

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to the Maldives, most or all in 1901. An older publication (Phillips 1958) listed *Bufo melanostictus* with the following comments: "Nos. 8, 9, half-grown: Malé. Previously recorded from Malé Atoll and Addu Atoll (Laidlaw). Plentiful in Malé; mainly nocturnal; noisy croaking on wet nights. Maldivian name = Bouk." In the introduction to this paper Miss Grandison and Mr. Battersby of the British Museum (Natural History) are acknowledged for the identification of the amphibian and reptile collection. It is therefore likely that the two mentioned specimens were deposited in the BMNH. This publication and the voucher specimens leave little doubts that *Bufo melanostictus* is (or was) actually present on the Maldives. In contrast, vouchers of *Sphaerotheca breviceps* from the Maldives could not be traced and its occurrence in this country might be considered as in need of confirmation.

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The Forgotten Amphibians of the Republic of Maldives

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According to the major databases "Amphibian Species of the World" (<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php>), "AmphibiaWeb" (<http://amphibiaweb.org>), and "Global Amphibian Assessment" (<http://www.globalamphibians.org>), amphibians do not occur on the Maldives (verified in January 2006). In contrast, at least one travel guide (Därr 2005), and several documents on the internet (e. g., www.bluepeace.maldives.org/biodiversity.htm and http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/005/ac792e/AC792E02.htm) indicate the occurrence of one or two amphibian species, *Bufo melanostictus* and *Rana* (= *Sphaerotheca*) *breviceps* in this country. At least some of these records appear to be based on the book of P. C. Webb (1988 [1989]) which, however, was not available from libraries in Germany. A search in HerpNet (<http://herpnet.org>) revealed the existence of several voucher specimens of *Bufo melanostictus* in the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ A-2445 and A-98720–98732 from Kaafu (= Male Atoll) and MCZ A-2446 from Addu Atoll), all collected by the Agassiz Expedition

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