

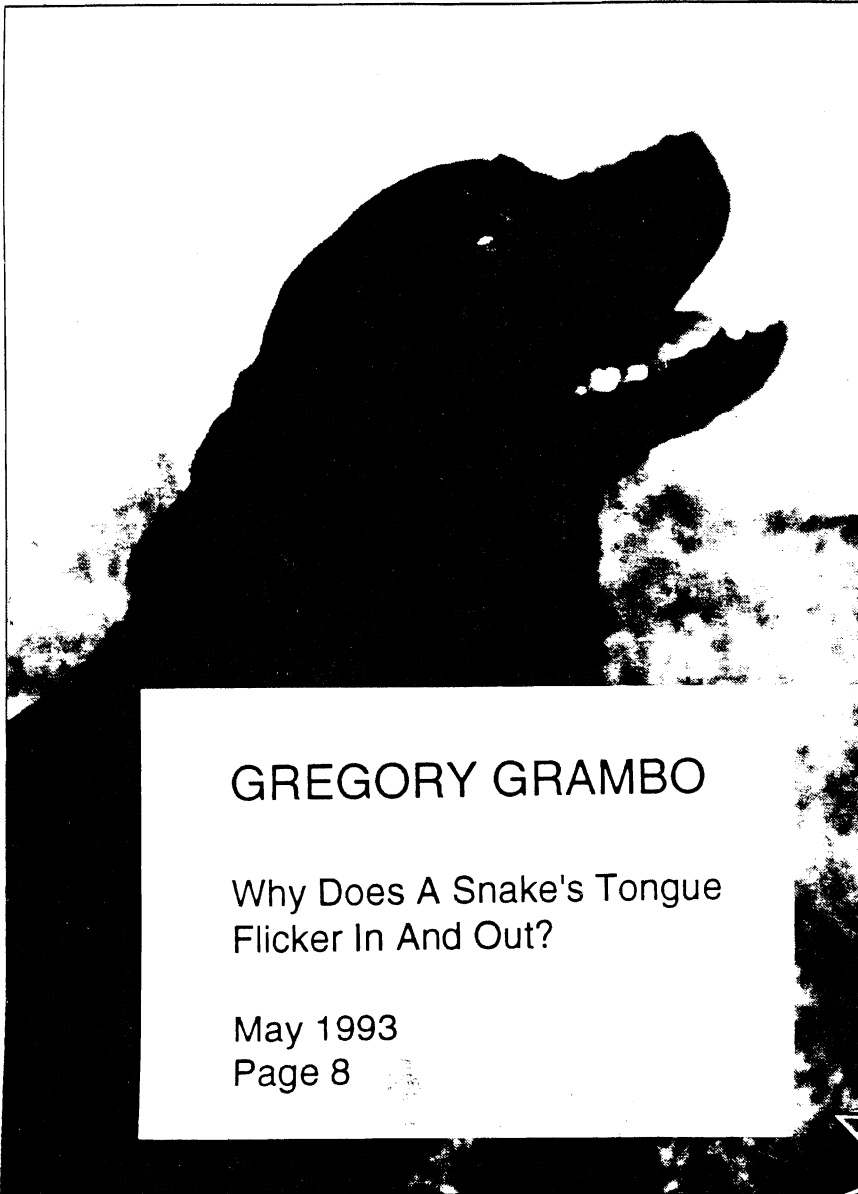
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# Gazette



GREGORY GRAMBO

Why Does A Snake's Tongue Flicker In And Out?

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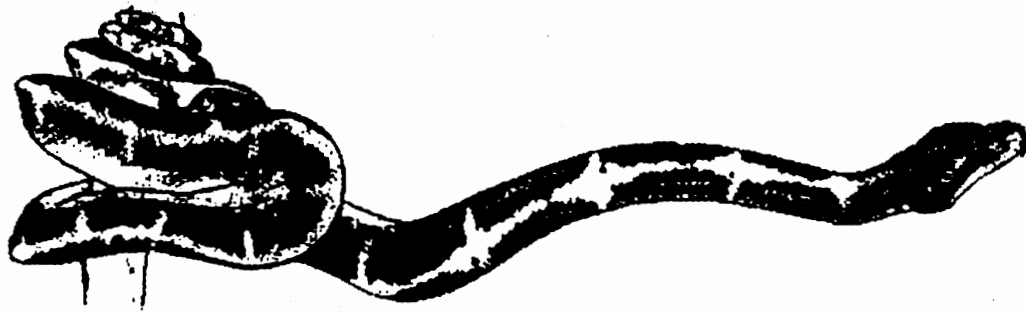
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# WHY DOES A SNAKE'S TONGUE FLICKER IN AND OUT?

By *Gregory Grambo,*  
*Science Educator*  
*Louis Armstrong Middle School*

Have you ever wondered why a snake's tongue moves in and out of its' mouth? The snake is actually using its tongue to help it smell things. Inside the mouth is something called Jacobson's organs. This pair of organs sit in the roof of the snake's mouth. As the forked tongue flicks in and out, it picks up small particles of substances that are in the air.

As the tongue moves back into the mouth, pieces of the chemicals that the tongue picked up are pushed into Jacobson's organs. The organ now tastes the chemicals. This information, along with information about the smell of an object are combined and transmitted to the snake's brain. This enables the snake to interpret information about its' environment.\*

