



The Parting Shot

When we found and photographed this beautiful Eyelash Pit Viper *Bothriechis schlegelii* in Selva Verde, Costa Rica, about nine or ten years ago, it was still classified as *Bothrops*. Such are the vagaries of scientific nomenclature, an aspect of research and knowledge which I have always stubbornly and strenuously defended all my life (faithful rea-

ders will have noticed that *Anima Mundi - Adventures in Wildlife Photography* prides itself in always adding the Latin name of the animal in captions) but which I have now, late in my life, begun to regard with suspicion. Different name, but still the same snake - so what's in a name, after all? I am starting to find this obsession with categorizing and catalo-

guing everything absolutely useless and rather childish - an attempt to force an order in a planetary life system which knows none. But back to our little venomous subject - in Costa Rica this beautiful and showy bright yellow phase is referred to as "*Oropel*", ie "Golden skin". Isn't that a pretty name, and doesn't it make more sense after all? ●