

and Siebold and Schlegel's excellent drawing of *Trigonocephalus Blomhoffii*, and are no doubt the same. 141 abdom. sc.; 39 subcaudal; 21 rows of scales, (25, according to Schlegel.) Total length of one specimen 1 foot $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, (Fr. ;) length of tail 1 inch 7 lines; length of another specimen 1 foot 7 inches; of tail 2 inches 4 lines. The tail, therefore, appears to be somewhat shorter than is indicated by the description of Professors Duméril and Schlegel, who make it one-sixth of the whole length of the animal. They state that the *Trigonocephalus Blomhoffii* is the only venomous serpent found in Japan.

RANIDÆ.

Among the reptiles recently sent to the Academy by M. Duchaillu, are four fine specimens of *Chamæleo dilepis*, and a large serpent formerly described by me in the Proceedings of the Acad. N. S., Vol. vi. p. 205, (*Dendrophis flavigularis*.) The only reptiles in the collection of M. Duchaillu that are not new, are four frogs, all belonging to the same species. Two of this family are already known to the collection, viz., *Rana Bibronii*, nob. (abundant,) and *Hyla punctata*, of which we have but one specimen.

RANA ALBOLABRIS, nob.

Char. Head triangular, depressed above; snout slightly rounded; eyes prominent; nostrils latero-superior, two lines apart; openings for the internal nares small and subcircular; between them two converging lines of vomerine teeth; eustachian foramina larger than the openings of the internal nares; tongue obcordate, attached in front, free at the sides, notched posteriorly; back more or less granulated; a raised and well marked lateral fold on each side, extending from the posterior margin of the eye to the extremity of the coccyx; tympanum circular, of moderate size, fingers free; subarticular tubercles distinct; base of toe much swollen; toe and first finger of equal length, third about a line longer than the fourth; anterior extremities moderately robust; posterior also webbed, extending to the distal extremity of the antepenultimate phalanx in all the toes except the fourth, in which it extends to the proximal extremity of the same phalanx; subarticular tubercles of toes less developed than those of fingers.

Coloration. Dark brown above, with obscure transverse bars of a deeper color upon posterior extremities; anterior extremities blotched with darker brown; a white stripe extending from the extremity of the snout, beneath the eye, and tympanum as far as the anterior extremity; a small white spot above the shoulder, which appears to be constant, and in several of the specimens a row of smaller white spots along the sides irregularly disposed. In two of the specimens the back presents a marked tinge of olive; the brown upon the side of the head is somewhat deeper than upon the back, resembling in this respect the *Rana sylvatica*, Le Conte, of which indeed it may be considered the representative in West Africa. Under parts whitish, more or less mingled with brown; in some specimens the brown very greatly predominates; under surface of thighs more or less spotted with brown.

Dimensions. Length of head 9 lines, greatest breadth 8 lines; length of head, neck and body 1 inch 10 lines to 2 inches 1 line; length of posterior extremities 3 inches 2 lines; of anterior 1 inch 3 lines; length of longest toe 9 lines; of longest finger $5\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat. W. Africa. Four specimens presented by M. Duchaillu.

On several new species of Reptiles in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

By EDW. HALLOWELL, M. D.

More detailed descriptions, with drawings of several of the species, will be published in the forthcoming volume of the Transactions of the Philosophical Society.

SCINCIDÆ.

Gen. PLESTIODON.

PLESTIODON SINENSE ? Duméril and Bibron.

Char.—Head cuneiform, slightly swollen at the temples; nostrils lateral, opening in a single plate; two supero-nasals, broad and contiguous; an internasal, quadrangular, posterior angle acute, enclosed by the fronto-nasals; (in one specimen the fronto-nasal and internasals are all fused into one plate;) a frontal-hexagonal, broader in front; two fronto-parietals; one inter-parietal; two parietals; no occipital; a freno-nasal; a large and broad frenal; two freno-orbital plates; seven superior labials; nostrils pyriform, broader end above, three or four scales upon its anterior border; third and fourth fingers of equal length; body robust; scales hexagonal, 24 rows; tail long and tapering, robust and cyclo-tetragonal at base; posterior extremities much shorter than anterior; second toe much the longest, with 14 distinct transverse scales; palms of anterior and lobes of posterior extremities tuberculated; six præanal scales, the two middle ones quite large; pterygoid teeth; tongue slightly notched in front, broad and deeply notched posteriorly, squamiform posteriorly.

Color. Olive above, with four dark colored and more or less interrupted bands upon the back and tail, the black spots forming these bands, which are not very distinct, occupying the posterior half of each scale; in some specimens they are much larger than in others; posterior part of scales upon sides marked with black.

Dimensions. Length of head 10 lines, greatest breadth $6\frac{1}{2}$; length of neck, body and vent 3 inch, (Fr. ;) of tail 4 inches 6 lines. Total length 8 inches 3 lines. Circumference of body 2 inches 2 lines; of tail at base 1 inch 7 lines. Another specimen measured 9 inches in length, and the circumference of the apparently older one was 2 inches 8 lines.

Habitat. Ningpo, China. Five specimens presented by B. H. McCartee, M.D. Nothing is known of its habits.

Gen. Remarks. This animal is very probably the *Plestiodon sinense* of Duméril and Bibron, *Tiliqua rubriventris*, Gray, (Hardwicke's Illustrations of Indian Zoology,) the descriptions of the scales corresponding, viz., olive bordered with yellow, but they make no mention of the four dotted lines down the back, which, however, are shown in Gray's figure, and they give one more row of scales, viz., 25. We have one specimen from the same locality with three white lines down the back bordered with black, probably the young of the above, and which is perhaps identical with *Plestiodon pulchrum*, Duméril and Bibron or *Tiliqua trivittata*, Gray.

Gen. EUPREPIS.

EUPREPIS SURINAMENSIS, nob.

Char. Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two supero-nasals contiguous; a large and broad internasal, its lateral and inferior margin in contact with the first frenal; two fronto-nasals not contiguous; a frontal more extended in the longitudinal direction, broader in front; two fronto-parietals; a short inter-parietal; two parietals; no occipital; a small naso-frenal; two frenals and two freno-orbital plates; seven superior labials; four supraciliary plates; a transparent disk to the inferior eyelid; 30 rows of scales, those upon back tricarinate; carinæ indistinct; of the præanal scales the two middle the largest.

Color. Olive above, with brown spots, arranged into two longitudinal rows; a brown band on each side from one and a half to two lines in breadth, commencing behind the eye and passing over the ear, losing itself upon the tail; extremities blotched with brown above; under parts silvery white without spots. Total length 7 inches 3 lines.

Habitat. Surinam. One specimen presented by Dr. Hering.

EUPREPIS MICROCEPHALUS, nob.

Syn. *Scincus ventralis*, Peale and Green.

Char. Nostrils in a single plate near its posterior border; two supero-nasals not contiguous; an internasal broader than long, its lateral inferior margin in contact with the first frenal; two fronto-nasals; a frontal very large, broader anteriorly; a small inter-parietal; two parietals, broad and rather short; six superior labials; head short and rather trapu; gape of mouth small; tongue slightly notched in front, papillous; auditory opening somewhat triangular in shape, with three small scales in front; 29 rows of scales, with from 7 to 8 carinæ, the middle ones wider apart than the others; tail longer than head, neck and body, cyclo-totragonal at base, tapering gradually to a point. Total length 4 inches 9 lines.

Habitat. Mexico. One specimen presented by Mr. W. H. Keating.

EUPREPIS DISSIMILIS, nob.

Char. Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two supero-nasals, slender, contiguous; an internasal, broader than long; two fronto-nasals; a frontal, much more narrow posteriorly; two fronto-parietals, longer and more narrow than the fronto-nasals; a short inter-parietal, broader in front; two parietals; a small naso-frenal; two frenals and two freno-orbitars; seven superior labials; a transparent disk to the inferior eyelid; 33 rows of carinated scales, the seven lateral rows more or less *tri-carinate*, the intermediate ones *strongly bi-carinate*; tail long and tapering, cyclo-tetragonal at base.

Color. Light olive above, with three distinct lighter colored vittæ, commencing behind the occiput and extending down the back upon the tail; under parts white without spots. Total length 7 inches 11 lines.

Habitat. Bengal. Two specimens presented by Dr. Burrough.

EUPREPIS LONGICAUDATA, nob.

Char. Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two slender supero-nasals apparently contiguous; a large internasal extending laterally upon the sides of the head, where it joins the supero-nasal and the first frenal plate; two fronto-nasals, more or less quadrangular, passing likewise down upon the sides of the head, where they join the first and second frenal; a frontal much longer than broad, narrow behind; fronto-parietals pentangular; one inter-parietal, more narrow posteriorly, and two parietals, larger than the fronto-parietals; no occipital; a small naso-frenal; two frenals and two freno-orbitars; seven superior labials; a transparent disk to the inferior eyelid; 30 rows of scales; those upon back distinctly *tri-carinate*, those upon sides also *tri-carinate*, but the carinæ are very indistinct; four inferior rows upon sides, and those upon neck smooth; scales upon tail *tri-carinate*, smooth laterally and inferiorly; tail *very long*.

Color. Olive green above, with a tinge of green below, except upon posterior half of tail, which as well as the upper part is brown; a broad black lateral band on each side.

Total length 8 inches $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Habitat. Siam. One specimen in Museum of Academy, presented by Dr. Ruschenberger, U. S. N.

OPHIOPHTHALMIDÆ.

We have fourteen specimens of *Ablepharus Peronii*. The predominating color in most of these specimens is bronze, mingled with green, with two lateral rays bordered with black, as described by Duméril and Bibron. In some of the specimens, however, the predominating color is brownish above, with two central rows of black spots. Duméril and Bibron observe that this species has a very wide range, being found, according to them, in New Holland, Otaheite, Java, the Isle of France, Morea and Peru.

The entire number of species of Scinecoidians or Lepidosaurian Lizards is 100 ;

these we have about 40, comprising 132 individuals, with many duplicates of several of the species, twenty-one specimens, for instance, of *Gongylus ocellatus*. They include the following genera, viz., *Scincus*, *Sphenops*, *Gongylus*, *Plestiodon*, *Eumeces*, *Euprepis*, *Lygosoma*, *Tropidolopisma*, *Leiolopisma*, *Cyclodus*, *Trachysaurus*, *Ablepharus*, *Seps*, *Anguis* and *Acontias*.

Fam. BOIDÆ.

Gen. NOTOPHIS, nob.

Char. Head small, triangular, depressed above; eyes of moderate size, lateral, supraciliary plates not projecting; anterior half of head covered with well defined plates, posterior with scales; two internasals; two anterior and two posterior frontals, the former passing down alongside of the head to meet the superior labials; nostrils in a single plate; eleven plates upon the top of the head, viz., two internasals, two anterior and two posterior frontals, a vertical and two occipitals, with several small plates between them; a loreal, one anterior orbital and three posterior orbitals; a row of hexagonal scales larger than the others running along the median line of the back; præanal scute and subcaudal plates single; ventral scutes quite narrow.

NOTOPHIS BICARINATUS, nob.

Char. Color uniformly yellow, with a tinge of red upon the abdomen; nine superior labials, the sixth higher than the others; dorsal middle row bi-carinate, the rest uni-carinate; carinæ quite distinct; 27 rows of scales; 215 longitudinal rows upon body; 41 upon tail.

Dimensions. Total length 1 foot $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; of tail 2 inches 4 lines, (prehensile.)

Habitat. Cuba. One specimen presented by Gavin Watson, M. D.

Descriptions of new species of African Birds, in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, collected by Mr. P. B. Du Chaillu, in Equatorial Africa.

By JOHN CASSIN.

GENUS MELIGNOTHES, nobis.

Bill short, thick and conical. Wings rather long; second, third and fourth quills longest and nearly equal. Tail moderate. Allied to the genus *Indicator*, Vieillot.

The short billed *Indicators* form a distinct group, easily recognized by the bill, as above described. Heretofore there have been known *Indicator minor*, Stephens, (*I. minimus*, Temm.) and *Indicator xanthonotus*, Blyth, belonging to this group, but in neither of them is the bill so short and thick as in the two species that we are now about to describe.

1. MELIGNOTHES CONIROSTRIS, nobis.

About the size of *I. minor* and resembling it, but with the bill thicker; wings shorter; legs and toes longer. Bill short, thick, wide and rather suddenly compressed at the tip; nostrils large; third and fourth quills slightly longest. Legs stout; toes long; tail moderate, rounded.

Dimensions.—Total length (of skin) $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, wings $3\frac{1}{2}$, tail $2\frac{1}{4}$, bill $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Colors.—Head above dark cinereous, every feather nearly black in the middle; back, rump, upper tail coverts and wing coverts with every feather brownish black in the middle and edged on both sides with golden yellow. Quills brownish black, edged externally with the yellow of the back; narrow on the primaries, wider on the secondaries. Feathers of the throat white at base, dark at their tips. Small space on the abdomen and flanks white, with longitudinal stripes of dark ashy brown. Other under parts and sides of the head and neck clear dark cinereous, under tail coverts slightly edged with white. Under wing coverts ashy. Tail, with the four central feathers brownish black, narrowly edged with



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