

No XVII.—THE AFFINITIES OF *ERYX JACULUS* AND
ERYX JOHNI.

Captain Ingoldby's suggestion in our last Journal (Vol. XXIX, p. 127) that *Eryx johni* does not deserve recognition as a species apart from *E. jaculus* has prompted me to refer to my notes on the specimens I have examined of both supposed species. I have for some years considered the two so closely allied that I have been guided largely by the locality of a specimen in identifying the species. In this Journal (Vol. XIX, p. 1,000). I identified a specimen from Jhelum as *jaculus*, the lepidosis being nearer to the description of this species in Boulenger's Catalogue (Vol. 1, p. 125) than that of *johni* (loc. cit. p. 127).

I think my records given below giving details of the lepidosis upon which the two supposed species are separated, strongly support Captain Ingoldby's view that *johni* should be rejected as a species apart from *jaculus*.

Serial No.	Costals.			Ventrals.	Subcaudals.	Locality.
	Two head-lengths behind head.	Midbody.	Two head-lengths before vent.			
1	51	57	37	190	26	Iraq. (Basra.)
2	48	53	37	190	24	Do. do.
3	42	49	37	190	33	Do. do.
4	47	52	35	198	27	Muhammerah, S Persia.
5	44	50	35	195	30	Do.
6	47	52	39	197?	26	Do.
7	45	51	37	190	28	Do.
8	48	54	39	199	25	Do.
9	48	52	37	191	26	Do.
10	46	49	?	193	26	Do.
11	48	52	38	194?	26	Do.
12	47	53	41	190?	33	Baluchistan (Hanna).
13	42	47	34	199	33	Do. (Duki.)
14	44	51	38	200	29	Do. (do.)
15	45	53	38	195	35	Waziristan (Kaur bridge).
16	49	56	42	200	33	Do. (do).
17	46	51	37	193	34	Do. (Wana).
18	46	52	36	189	30	Punjab (Jhelum).
19	47	54	41	192	37	Do. (do.).
20	47	52	40	193	30	Do. (do.).
21	54	61	46	Do. (Mooltan).
22	44	52	40	190	28	Sind (Karachi)
23	47	52	41	193	29	Do. (do.).
24	39	48	53	192	34	Do. (do.).
25	51	59	42	201	31	Do. (do.).
26	49	58	42	198	34	Do. (do.).
27	54	60	41	215	30	Do. (do.).
28	52	62	45	213	..	S. India (Bangalore)

Colouration.—Captain Ingoldby says in the few young Indian specimens he has seen the body was quite unmarked. In young Sind specimens, however, and up to the time they are half grown, one sees ill-defined black bars on the body, more pronounced posteriorly.

I have never seen any specimens from Iraq and Persia that had acquired the uniform dark brown dorsal colouration so typical of the adult Indian form of the species, but immature Indian specimens resemble in colouration the specimens so typical of Iraq and Persia.

Dentition.—I have skulls of six Indian specimens that I have hitherto labelled *johni*, and two from Persia and Iraq identified as *jaculus*. A study of the teeth supports the view that they constitute a single species as will be seen from the following details.

Maxillary.			Palatine.	Pterygoid.	Mandibular.	LOCALITY.
Left	..	11	4	3	13	Trichinopoly.
Right	..	11	4	3	13	
Left	..	10	4	5	12	
Right	..	10	4	4	12	Karachi.
Left	..	10	4	4	?	Karachi.
Right	..	10	4	4	?	
Left	..	10	3	4	11	Jhelum.
Right	..	10	3	4	12	
Left	..	10	3	4	12	
Right	..	10	3	4	12	Jhelum.
Left	..	10	4	4	13	Jhelum.
Right	..	10	4	4	13	
Left	..	11	3	4	14	
Right	..	10	3	4	16	Muhammerah.
Left	..	10	3	4	11	Basra.
Right	..	9	3	4	11	

The *maxillary* series are anododont, syncranterian and scaphiodont. The *palatine* anododont, isodont. The *pterygoid* anododont, isodont. The *mandibular* anododont, strongly scaphiodont.

Distribution. The distribution of this snake is interesting as only one other species, *viz.*, *Echis carinatus* occurring in South India extends to Persia and Iraq.

KARACHI,
4th August 1923.

F. WALL,
COLONEL, I.M.S.

NO. XVIII—AN UNUSUALLY LARGE *LABEO* FROM THE INDRAYANI RIVER.

The following incident, which may be of interest to fishermen in these parts occurred yesterday.

In company with Major and Mrs. T. W. Corbett, I had been out after green pigeon and was returning to Poona *via* the Nasik Road. On reaching the causeway over the river Indrayani we stopped for a smoke and to give the cars a drink. The water on the upstream side of the causeway was about a foot below road level and about five or six feet below the road on the lower side, with a series of small waterfalls rushing out from the sluices in the middle, the



Wall, Frank. 1923. "The Affinities of Eryx Jaculus and Eryxjohnii." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 29, 842–843.

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