

All contained embryos similar to the one described, except Nos. 6, 8 and 9 which were unfertile, 8 and 9 were discoloured and not fully formed, while 6 was joined to 5.

The snake incubated these eggs till 30th June and throughout the period she was noticed twitching at short intervals. On the 2nd June she left the eggs, had a drink and after immersing herself in the watertank returned to the eggs. On the 16th June she ate a dead rat and a bird placed near her. On the 30th June she left the eggs which were removed and examined. All proved to be addled except one which contained a living snake $14\frac{1}{4}$ " long and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in thickness. The foetal tooth, which ended in a blunt point was distinctly visible to the naked eye.

The dam had sloughed on the 7th April before the incubation period and did not shed her skin again till the 19th July.

CENTRAL MUSEUM, NAGPUR,
8th August 1917.

E. A. D'ABREU, F.Z.S.

NO. XIX.—THE VARIETIES OF COBRAS IN CENTRAL INDIA.

Please see Col. Bannerman's paper on the distribution of varieties of Cobra in Vol. XVI, page 638, and Vol. XVII, page 1031, of our Journal.

Central India is mentioned as the habitat of the variety *caeca*.

On 3rd June a Cobra was brought to me of the ordinary "*typica*" variety with well developed ocellate marks. It was 3'-10" in length.

On the 11th June I was brought a Cobra of the variety "*caeca*" 4'-3" long. I made a careful lepidosis of the snake although I was certain that it could be nothing else. So far as I recollect Goona is the only place given in Col. Bannerman's map, lying in Central India. Here (Manpur) the two varieties occur. It will be interesting to see which prevails when more have been collected.

C. E. LUARD, MAJOR.

THE AGENCY, MANPUR, C. I.,
2nd September 1917.

NO. XX.—COBRAS WITHOUT THE CUNEATE SCALE.

I am sending to-day the head of a snake which was killed by a servant in the compound last night. I proceeded to identify it this morning and at once came to the conclusion that it was a Cobra (*Naia tripudians*) on the following points:—

1. 3rd supra-labial touches nasal shield and eye. This separates Cobras and Coral snakes from *all* other snakes, *vide* Wall's "Poisonous Terrestrial Snakes," page 23.
2. 'The præocular shield touches the internasal', peculiar to the cobras with two rare exceptions (page 28 same book).
3. Other marks as tail, etc., point to the Cobra and scale pattern on back makes distinct chevron shape.

I went over all this most carefully and could not find that I was mistaken in any point *but* I could find no 'cuneate' scale and the scales differ in the two following points. The 2nd temporal does not touch 5th and 6th supralabials but the 4th and 5th, and the 4th supra-labial does not touch the eye as figured in Wall's book, page 29. I have not identified many snakes and most of those of this part of India are new to me, but



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