

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BLIND SNAKE (*TYPHLOPS TOVELLI*) FROM
DARWIN, AUSTRALIA.

BY ARTHUR LOVERIDGE.

Among those who have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by world conditions to extend our knowledge of the fauna in distant places, is Gunner G. T. R. Tovell of the Australian Forces. At the conclusion of hostilities it is hoped to publish a full report on the material he has so generously contributed. The present paper deals only with an addition to the Australian herpetofauna, with which I am glad to associate the discoverer's name by calling it

Typhlops toveli sp. nov.

Type.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 48,844, from Koonowarra Sports Ground, about five miles south of Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, collected by G. T. R. Tovell, 1944.

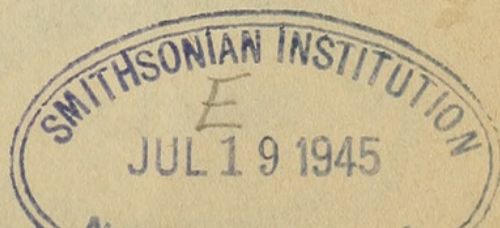
Paratype.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 48,845 with same data as the type.

Diagnosis.—Closely related to *T. broomi* Boulenger, of Muldiva, northeast Queensland, of which it may be a subspecies, as it differs only from the description of *broomi* in its semidivided (not divided labial). It has less in common with *T. diversus* Waite, of Mowen, Queensland, whose body diameter is included 67 times in total length.

Description.—Snout rounded, moderately projecting; rostral nearly half the width of the head, extending almost to the level of the eyes; nostrils lateral; nasal *semidivided*, the cleft proceeding from the preocular; preocular narrower than the nasal or ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes distinct; upper head scales distinctly enlarged; upper labials 4. Midbody scales in 20 rows; body diameter 40 (36 in paratype) times in total length; tail as long as broad, ending in a point.

Color.—Above, brown, the center of each scale darker and resulting in a series of lines. Below, pure white, the junction with the darker dorsal coloring very irregular.

Size.—Total length of type, 122 (118.5+3.5) mm., of paratype, 73 (70.5+2.5) mm., their diameters being 3 and 2 mm. respectively.





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