

Hist.' Dec. 1864, t. 9. f. 1-5, may be possibly different from the typical *Th. Laureri*, Flot. Should this prove to be the case, the name he proposes, *Th. anglicum*, must be adopted for the English plant, limiting *T. Laureri* to the German specimens. Dr. Körber, to whom I forwarded a specimen, compared it with his authentic specimen (but whether microscopically or merely externally, I know not), and thought them identical. Dr. Nylander has kindly afforded me an opportunity of examining his *Th. intermediellum*, which corresponds with the characters he has given of it. Recurring to my own specimens, I am disposed to think that the plant found by me parasitically on *Bæomyces rufus* (see Ann. l. c.) will eventually prove to be another species (for which I would propose the name *Thelocarpon epithallinum*). In it I find the paraphyses to be stronger, unbranched, and shorter than in others, the asci more elongated, lineari-cylindrical, and the spores (which I could not disengage from the asci, and therefore may be optically deceived by the appearance of their close approximation or packing) to be of an irregular spherical shape. There also appears a difference in the gonidia. But the plant was in too unsatisfactory a state to determine this decisively.

VI.—*Fifth Account of new Species of Snakes in the Collection of the British Museum.* By ALBERT GÜNTHER, M.A., M.D., Ph.D.

[Plates VI. & VII.]

THE following species of Ophidians have been added to the Collection of the British Museum since the publication of the last paper on the same subject in this Journal (February 1865, p. 89). The total number of species in that collection amounts now to 827, and that of the typical specimens to 303. Our numerous specimens of Typhlopides have been examined by Prof. Peters, who has been for some years engaged upon a monograph of this family.

In the following lists some of the species are marked with an asterisk (*): they will be described in this paper.

I. *List of Species which were formerly desiderata.*

- Helminthophis flavoterminalis, *Ptrs.* Caraccas. Purchased.
- albirostris, *Ptrs.* Guayaquil. Mr. Fraser.
- Typhlops tenuis, *Jan.* Bengal. Purchased.
- lineolatus, *Jan.* —?
- Mülleri, *Schleg.* (= *Pilidium dimidiatum*, Blkr.). East-Indian archipelago. Dr. Bleeker.
- polygrammicus, *Schleg.* New South Wales. G. Krefft, Esq.

- Onychocephalus Kraussii*, Jan. Old Calabar and Fernando Po. Purchased.
- *lalandii*, Schleg. Cape of Good Hope. Purchased.
- *Bibronii*, Smith. Cape of Good Hope. Sir A. Smith. (Typical specimen.)
- *verticalis*, Smith. Cape of Good Hope. Sir A. Smith. (Typical specimen.)
- *capensis*, Smith. Cape of Good Hope. Sir A. Smith. (Typical specimens.)
- *mucroso*, Ptrs. Zambesi Expedition.
- *mossambicus*, Ptrs. Mozambique. Purchased.
- Stenostoma cairi*, D. & B. Thebes. Prof. Peters.
- *macrolepis*, Ptrs. Mexico. Purchased.
- *macrorhynchum*, Jan. Euphrates Expedition.
- *bilineatum*, D. & B. Martinique. Purchased.
- *nigricans*, Smith. South Africa. Sir A. Smith. (Typical specimens.)
- *fallax*, Ptrs. Peru. Prof. Nation.
- **Calamelaps unicolor*, Rnhrdt. Sierra Leone. Purchased.
- Rhabdion torquatum*, D. & B. Borneo. Prof. Peters.
- Hapsidophrys cæruleus*, Fischer. Sierra Leone. Purchased.
- Rhagerrihis producta*, Ptrs. Nubia. Prof. Peters.
- *multimaculata*=*Coronella multim.*, Smith=*Dipsina multim.*, Jan. Damara Land. Purchased.
- **Atractaspis corpulentus*, Hallow. —? St. G. Mivart, Esq.
- Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus*, Cantor. Formosa. Consul R. Swinhoe.
- Echidna inornata*, Smith. South Africa. Sir A. Smith. (Type of the species.)

II. List of the new Species procured and described in the course of the year 1865.

- Typhlops obtusus*, Ptrs. Shiré Valley. Zambesi Expedition.
- *Güntheri*, Ptrs. North Australia. Mr. Elsey.
- Stenostoma scutifrons*, Ptrs. Benguela. Mr. Monteiro.
- **Calamaria arcticeps*. Borneo. L. L. Dillwyn, Esq.
- **Ablabes flaviceps*. East-Indian archipelago. Purchased.
- **Zamenis brachyurus*. Dekkan. Purchased.
- **Herpetæthiops Bellii*. Sierra Leone. Lieut. Bell.
- **Ahætulla nigromarginata*. Upper Amazons. Mr. Bartlett, junr.
- **Aspidiotes melanocephalus*, Krefft. —. G. Krefft, Esq.
- Hoplocephalus mastersii*, Krefft. Flinders Range. G. Krefft, Esq.
- **Atractaspis microlepidota*. West Africa? A. Günther.

Calamaria arcticeps. Pl. VI. fig. C.

Body moderately slender; tail short; head narrow, elongate, the frontals being longer than broad, as long as the vertical. Vertical five-sided, broader posteriorly than anteriorly, the lateral edges being slightly convergent towards the front.

Five upper labials, the third and fourth below the orbit; the first pair of lower labials touch each other behind the mentale, without forming a suture. No azygos shield between the chin-shields. Ventrals 151; anal entire; subcaudals 16. Brownish above, with eight brown longitudinal lines—two along the median line of the back (that is, one on each side of the vertebral series of scales), a broader one along the meeting edges of the fourth and fifth outer series of scales, one of the same width along the meeting edges of the second and third series, and, finally, one, very narrow, along the meeting edges of the two outermost series. A broad brown collar on the neck, edged with yellowish; tail with two large black transverse spots. Lower parts uniform yellowish.

Eight inches long. Borneo.

CALAMELAPS, gen. nov.

Body cylindrical, rather slender; tail short in the female, of moderate length in the male. Two pairs of frontal shields; rostral rounded, moderate; nasal single, its anterior portion pierced by the nostrils; loreal and anteorbital absent, the posterior frontal forming a broad suture with the third labial; postorbital minute or absent; the fifth labial forming a long suture with the occipital; six upper labials. Eye very small. Scales smooth, without apical groove, in seventeen rows; anal bifid; subcaudals two-rowed. The posterior maxillary tooth elongate and grooved.

The type of this genus is *Calamaria unicolor* (Rnhrdt.), from West Africa.

Ablabes (Enicognathus) flaviceps. Pl. VI. fig. B.

Habit rather slender; head depressed, with very short snout. Scales in seventeen rows. Loreal rather higher than long; one præocular, just reaching the upper surface of the head; two postoculars. The occipital extends downwards to the lower postocular; temporals 2+2, the two anterior in contact with the lower postocular. Eight upper labials, the third, fourth, and fifth entering the orbit. Anterior chin-shields not longer, but rather broader than the posterior, and in contact with four lower labials. Ventrals 150; anal bifid; subcaudals 97. Maxillary teeth small, numerous, closely set. Upper parts brownish black, powdered with grey. A grey band commences on the neck, runs along each side of the back, where it is three scales broad, and disappears on the tail; anteriorly it is edged with black, in the middle accompanied with black spots along the edges; posteriorly the black spots stand in regular intervals within the band. Head and anterior part of the nape dark

yellow; a straight, blackish longitudinal streak runs through the eye. Lower parts yellow; each ventral with a black spot on each side.

East-Indian archipelago. 20 inches long; tail 7 inches.

Zamenis brachyurus. Pl. VI. figs. A, A'.

This species resembles in general habit a small *Dromicus*. Rostral shield scarcely broader than high, extending to the upper surface of the snout; anterior frontals half as large as the posterior. Vertical of moderate size, five-sided, rather shorter than the occipitals, which are rounded behind. Loreal as high as long; one præocular, large, extending to the vertical; two postoculars. Upper labials eight, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit; temporals 2 + 2 + 3. Scales elongate, narrow, in twenty-three series. Ventrals 225; anal entire; subcaudals 46; ventrals rounded, not keeled. Eye rather small, with round pupil. The last maxillary tooth is the largest, and separated from the others by an interspace. Upper parts brownish olive; the upper side of the head and the anterior part of the trunk are irregularly spotted with brown, the brown spots being arranged in longitudinal series, and narrowly edged with yellow. The posterior part of the trunk is immaculate. Anterior ventral shields brownish, each with a yellowish posterior edge; posterior ventral shields uniform whitish.

We have obtained a single example from Poonah (Dekkan); it is 17 inches long, the head measuring 7 lines, and the tail 2 inches.

HERPETÆTHIOPS (gen. nov. Dryadid.).

Body and tail slender, scarcely compressed; trunk with about 150 ventral shields, which are keeled; head somewhat elongate, rounded in front, flat above; eye of moderate size, with round pupil; nostril lateral, between shields. Plates of the head regular; loreal present; one anterior and two posterior oculars. Scales rather elongate, smooth, without apical groove, in fifteen rows; ventrals strongly bent up the sides; anal entire. The two posterior maxillary teeth are the longest, not grooved, separated from each other and from the preceding ones by a short interspace.

Herpetæthiops Bellii. Pl. VII. fig. B.

Head rather narrow, distinct from neck. Rostral shield scarcely broader than high, reaching the upper surface of the snout; anterior frontals half as large as the posterior, about as long as broad. Vertical bell-shaped, as large as a superciliary, and not much shorter than the occipitals, which are short and rounded behind. Loreal quadrangular, much longer than deep;

one præocular, nearly reaching the vertical; two postoculars; nine upper labials, the fourth, fifth, and sixth of which enter the orbit. Temporals 2 + 2, the two anterior being in contact with the postoculars. Scales much imbricate. Ventrals 159; anal entire; subcaudals 85. Deep black above and below; only the lower side of the head and the thirty anterior ventral shields are whitish.

We have received one example only, in a collection made by Lieut. Bell at Sierra Leone; it is 33 inches long, the tail measuring 9 inches.

Ahatulla nigromarginata.

Scales in fifteen rows, slightly keeled. Head small, depressed, with the snout of moderate length, subtruncate in front; rostral shield rather broader than high; loreal none; præorbital not reaching the vertical; two postorbitals; nine upper labials, the fifth and sixth of which enter the orbit; temporals large, 1 + 2; occipitals rounded, with some larger rounded scales behind. Six lower labials are in contact with the chin-shields. Eye rather large, with round pupil. Body and tail slender and compressed. Ventral shields 158, slightly keeled; anal bifid; subcaudals 115. Maxillary with a cluster of three or four enlarged teeth, which are not grooved and not separated from the others by an interspace. Upper parts green; each head-shield and scale with a black margin; sides without band. Lower parts uniform greenish.

This species would enter the subgenus *Uromacer* of Duméril and Bibron.

The British Museum possesses one example of this species, collected by Mr. Bartlett, junr., on the Upper Amazons; it is a female, 30 inches long, the tail measuring 10.

Ferania Sieboldii, Schleg.

This species attains to a very large size: we have received from the late Sir R. Schomburgk a specimen 46 inches long, the tail measuring 6 inches; the circumference of the middle of its body is 5½ inches. The spots which are so very distinct in the young are confluent, giving a coarsely reticulated appearance to the back. Lower part of the sides and belly with black cross bands placed at regular intervals. Upperside of the head immaculate; a black band from the eye along the temple. This specimen, which is from Siam, has 106 ventral shields only, and the anterior frontals are confluent into one, so that the specimen might be taken for a *Hypsirhina*. However, an original division of the plate is still indicated by an incomplete suture. The *Hypsirhina Bocourti*, noticed by Jan as a new species, is probably not distinct.

Lycophidium Horstockii. Pl. VII. fig. A.

I have mentioned, in 'Colubr. Snak.' p. 197, that large specimens about 2 feet long appear nearly uniformly black, a small number of scales on the posterior part of the body retaining bluish-white edges.

We have received a very singular variety from the Gambia, through the kindness of Sir Andrew Smith: one of the specimens is 21 inches long, and the other about half that size. This is black, nearly all the scales having bluish-white edges. A series of thirty quadrangular white spots occupies the back of the trunk, each spot enclosing nine or ten scales. The series commences with a white longitudinal streak on the neck and occiput, and terminates with about seven streak-like spots on the back of the tail.

This extraordinary variety might be taken as a distinct species; but there is not the slightest structural difference from the typical *L. Horstockii*.

Aspidiotes melanocephalus, Krefft.

Mr. Krefft has kindly sent to the British Museum a fine large specimen of this snake. I could not discover any teeth on the maxillary bone; so that Mr. Krefft appears to be justified at present in placing this snake among the *Boidæ*. However, there is in other points such a strong similarity to *Liasis*, that I cannot help thinking that an examination of younger examples of 2 or 3 feet in length may reveal the presence of those teeth.

Atractaspis microlepidota. Pl. VII. fig. C.

Uniform blackish brown. Body stout. Ventrals 212; subcaudals simple, 26. Scales in twenty-nine series. Two pairs of frontal shields; one præ- and one postocular; six upper labials, the third and fourth entering the orbit; temporals rather numerous and irregular.

This is probably a West African species. Our specimen is 20 inches long, the tail measuring 18 lines.

Atractaspis corpulentus.

According to Hallowell's notes (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philad. 1857, p. 70), his specimen had one pair of frontals and 182 ventral shields; our specimen differs in having two pairs of frontals and 210 ventral shields. However, we have seen similar variations in one and the same species of African snakes, and would not regard the two specimens as specifically distinct, without further proof.

The British Museum now possesses four very distinct species of this genus, so characteristic of the western and southern parts of Africa.



Günther, Albert C. L. G. 1866. "Fifth account of new species of snakes in the collection of the British Museum." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 18, 24–29.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/53284>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/51168>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.