

XVI.—*Description of a new Snake of the Genus Atractaspis from Mount Kenya, British East Africa.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

A SMALL collection of reptiles made by Mr. S. L. Hinde at Fort Hall, Mount Kenya, 4400 feet, contains, in addition to specimens of four species previously described by me from East Africa—viz. *Lygosoma clathrotis*, *Chamæleon Jacksoni*, *Chamæleon Roperi*, and *Glauconia Emini*,—an example of the Viperid genus *Atractaspis*, unique in having two postoculars instead of one. It represents a new species, which I propose to name

*Atractaspis bipostocularis.*

Snout very short, rounded. Portion of rostral visible from above half as long as its distance from the frontal; suture between the internasals as long as that between the præfrontals; frontal a little longer than broad, nearly twice as long as its distance from the end of the snout, as long as the parietals; one præ- and two postoculars; a very large temporal wedged in between the fourth and fifth upper labials and in contact with the lower postocular; five upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, fourth largest; first lower labial in contact with its fellow behind the symphysial; four or five lower labials in contact with the chin-shields, fourth or fifth very large. Scales in 23 rows. Ventrals 233; anal divided; subcaudals 24 pairs. Dark olive above and beneath, upper surface of head paler.

Total length 240 mm.; tail 16.

A single young specimen.

XVII.—*List of a Collection of Neuroptera Odonata (Dragonflies) formed by G. A. K. Marshall, Esq., at Salisbury, Mashonaland, with Descriptions of a new Genus and Two new Species.* By W. F. KIRBY, F.L.S., F.E.S.

THIS small collection was recently presented to the Natural History Museum by Mr. Guy Marshall, and is interesting on account of all the specimens being marked with the month of capture. A few notes are also added, chiefly on the colours of the living insects.

## Libellulidæ.—LIBELLULINÆ.

*Pantala flavescens*, Fabr.: (no. 29) Nov. 1903.—Four specimens.

*Trithemis arteriosa*, Burm.: (no. 42) October 1903, April 1904.—Seven specimens.

*Trithemis stictica*, Burm.: (no. 53) April 1904.—One specimen.

*Crocothemis erythræa*, Brullé: (no. 25) Oct. 1903, April 1904.—Five specimens.

*Orthetrum chrysostigma*, Burm.: (no. 14) April 1904.—Three specimens.

*Misthotus Marshalli*, sp. n. (*vide infra*): (nos. 6 & 26, immature) Oct. 1903, (no. 5, adult) Nov. and Dec. 1903.—Five specimens.

*Diplacodes exul*, Selys: (nos. 3 & 26) Oct. 1903, (no. 40) Nov. 1903, (no. 11) March 1904.—Four specimens.

## Æschnidæ.—ÆSCHNINÆ.

*Hemianax ephippiger*, Burm.: (no. 30) Nov. 1903.—Two specimens.

## Agrionidæ.—CÆNAGRIONINÆ.

*Disparoneura glauca*, Burm.: (no. 23) November 1903.—One specimen.

*Micronympha senegalensis*, Ramb.: (nos. 46 & 48) Oct. and Nov. 1903, (no. 46, November). "Sides of thorax and of two basal and two apical segments of abdomen bright blue." (*G. M.*)—Several specimens.

*Pseudagrion punctum*, Ramb.: (no. 41) Oct. and Nov. 1903, "Apex of abdomen pale blue." (*G. M.*); (no. 45) Nov. 1903, "♀ of 24." (*G. M.*)—Nine specimens.

*Pseudagrion Deckeni*, Gerst. (according to the above note = *P. punctum*, ♂): (nos. 24, 41, 43, 44) Oct. and Nov. 1903, (nos. 44 & 46) April 1904.—Fourteen specimens.

*Agriocnemis exilis*, Selys: (no. 16) Oct. 1903.—One specimen.

*Lestes obscurus*, Kirb.: (no. 15) Oct. 1903, March and April 1904.—Four specimens.

## Genus MISTHOTUS, nov.

Eyes contiguous, scarcely expanded behind, frontal tubercle rounded; abdomen about as long as the fore wings, rather slender, neither thickened nor constricted at the base, with the second and third segments carinated; terminal appendages of male rather short and slender, thickened towards the extremity, scarcely longer than the broad triangular lower appendage: fore wings with 11 or 12 continuous antenodal cross-nervures and 9 to 11 postnodal cross-nervures in the upper space and 7 or 8 in the lower (only 5 in female); pterostigma rather long, with 2 or 3 nervures in the space below it; only 1 nervure in the lower basal cell; no supra-triangular nervures; triangle regular, traversed, followed by 3 rows of post-triangular cells, only increasing towards the extremity, subtriangular space consisting of 3 cells; sectors of the arculus stalked, only slightly waved, lower sector of the triangle rising just beneath the triangle: hind wings with 9 or 10 continuous antenodal cross-nervures (sometimes an accessory one in the upper series), and 11 postnodal upper cross-nervures and 8 lower; triangle untraversed, followed by two rows of cells increasing above the upper sector, which rises close to the lower one.

Differs from *Orthetrum* chiefly by the uninflated and unconstricted abdomen. Several species described under *Orthetrum* (among others *O. flavidulum*, Kirb.) will probably fall into this genus.

*Misthotus Marshalli*, sp. n.

Exp. al. 58 mm.; long. pter. 3 mm.; long. corp. 34 mm.

*Male*.—Head black; vertex purple, coarsely punctured; below it a yellow spot on each side, touching the eye; mentum with the sides broadly yellow; outer orbits yellow, spotted with black; thorax and abdomen pruinose blue, with some slight yellow markings at the base of the legs, on the sides of the base of the abdomen beneath, and on the lower abdominal appendage above; thorax very hairy; legs black: wings very clear hyaline, with blackish neuration; stigma dark brown, slightly bordered with smoky yellow on the inner edge; base of wings with a smoky yellow patch, nearly obsolete on the fore wings; membranule of hind wings small, grey.

Salisbury, Nov. and Dec. 1903. Two specimens.

*Female* (taken in cop. with one of the two males described

above, in Nov. 1903) and *immature male* (Oct. 1903).—Head yellow, antennal tubercles surrounded with purple (vertex wholly purple in male); thorax yellow, a black isosceles triangle above, pointing backwards, and with 5 or 6 more or less confluent oblique stripes on the pleura; interalary space varied with black and yellow; abdomen yellow, with 3 black bands, widening behind, one median, the others lateral; the lateral ones more or less interrupted towards the base; fourth segment with a black transverse line near the base, simulating an imperfect carina (in the pruinose males first described this is hidden). All else as in the adult males previously described.

In a still more immature male, taken in October, which seems to belong to the same species, the neurulation is reddish, with the yellow at the base of the wings more extended; the dark median triangle of the thorax and the median abdominal stripe are barely indicated, and the pleura and sides of abdomen at the base are almost white, with oblique black lines.

*Misthotus ambiguus*, sp. n.

Exp. al. 70 mm.; long. pter. 3 mm.; long. corp. 38 mm.

*Male*.—Vertex purple, with greenish shades in certain lights; face mostly greenish; rhinarium black, with an orange spot on each side; mentum black, with a broad orange band on each side; outer orbits yellow, spotted with black. Body and wings nearly as in the last species; fore wings with 11 continuous cross-nervures, and sometimes an accessory one on one side, not continued beneath, 10 in the upper postnodal space, and 7 in the lower: hind wings with 7 or 8 continuous antenodal cross-nervures, 10 or 11 in the upper postnodal space, and 7 or 8 in the lower.

Otherwise as in the last species.

*Hab.* Transvaal (*H. Ross*); Cape Colony.

A larger and stouter insect than *M. Marshalli*. Perhaps allied to *Orthetrum farinosum*, Förster, also from the Transvaal.

This is not one of Mr. Guy Marshall's captures, but I describe it here as an additional species of the new genus *Misthotus*.



Kirby, W. F. 1905. "List of a collection of Neuroptera Odonata (Dragonflies) formed by G. A. K. Marshall, Esq., at Salisbury, Mashonaland, with descriptions of a new genus and two new species." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 15, 190–193.

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