

This genus is allied to *Salea*, from which it differs in its gular sac ; it has more the aspect of the Ceylonese *Cophotis*, from which, however, it is further removed by its naked tympanum.

9. Descriptions of new Uropeltidæ from Southern India,
with Remarks on some previously-described Species.
By Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, C.M.Z.S.

[Received January 12, 1878.]

SILYBURA NIGRA, n. sp.

Snout short, slightly pointed, rostral not nearly separating the nasals ; eye very small, in the front part of the ocular shield, no supraorbital ; scales all in nineteen rows, abdominals 180-185, caudal disk convex, not well defined, scales slightly keeled, subcaudals six to nine pairs, terminal scute of tail bicuspid ; body black, very iridescent, with irregular transverse rows of yellowish-white spots, a yellowish streak commences at the fourth labial and extends along the sides for 1 to 2 inches, sides and belly more or less blotched with broad transverse patches of yellow, the first one or two inches of the belly generally uniform black.

Hab. Pulney Mountains, 4000 ft. elevation.

SILYBURA NITIDA, n. sp.

Snout obtusely pointed ; rostral very small, not nearly separating the nasals ; eye small, in the front part of the ocular shield ; no supraorbital ; fourth upper labial reddish yellow, caudal disk convex, indistinct ; scales three to six ; keeled terminal scute rather large, not laterally compressed, bicuspid, the points side by side, scales in seventeen rows, abdominals 188 to 194. Colour nearly jet-black, but very iridescent ; the belly with very distant large reddish-yellow blotches, the black colour much predominating.

Hab. Anamallays, 4000 to 5000 ft.

SILYBURA PETERSI, n. sp.

Snout obtuse ; rostral very small, not separating the nasals ; tail laterally compressed, caudal disk not defined ; the scales nearly quite smooth or faint traces of keels, the terminal scute shovel-shaped, not bicuspid ; eye very small, in the front part of the ocular shield ; no supraorbital ; abdominals 155 to 158 ; subcaudals ten to twelve pairs ; scales in seventeen rows ; above uniform brown ; sides with indistinct yellowish white spots or narrow transverse bars, which sometimes extend across the belly ; a broad yellowish patch across the vent.

Hab. Anamallays, 4000 ft. Rare ; a small species.

SILYBURA MACULATA, n. sp.

Snout obtuse ; rostral very small, not separating the nasals, which are as large as the frontals ; eye rather large, in the front part of the ocular shield ; no supraorbital ; tail laterally compressed, not well defined ; caudal disk without keels, but a few of the terminal scales a little rugose, terminal scale slightly bicuspid, the points side by

side. Scales round the body in seventeen rows, abdominals about 156, subcaudals eight to thirteen pairs. Colour of a uniform brown or sometimes quite black, with several deep-red blotches along the sides of the anterior portion of the trunk and about the tail, and rarely several of these are present along the sides of the trunk.

Hab. —?

The tail of this species is more like that of *Plectrurus* than that of *Silybura*; but I prefer to restrict *Plectrurus* to those species which have a supraorbital shield and only fifteen rows of scales.

The snake I formerly described as *Plectrurus trilineatus* has been placed by Dr. Günther in a new genus, "*Platyplectrurus*:" this has the supraorbital and only fifteen rows of scales, but it differs from *Plectrurus* proper in the presence of an elongated temporal shield over the fourth labial, besides in other points, as noted by Dr. Günther; and I think the genus may stand. *Plectrurus sanguineus* (which I find, on a reexamination of the species, has always fifteen rows of scales only round the centre of the body, not seventeen) will belong to this genus; and I have described two other species, *P. hewstoni* and *P. madurensis*.

My *Plectrurus pulneyensis* has been placed by Dr. Günther in *Rhinophis*; but it should, I think, rather be referred to *Silybura*.

My *Silybura canarica* has been referred to *Plectrurus*: it has only fifteen rows of scales (but it wants the supraorbital); the tail, however, is exactly that of the type of *Plectrurus*, with the points of the terminal scutes one above the other. It may form a distinct section in the genus, or have a new genus constituted for it. The only other *Silybura* described with fifteen rows of scales is *Silybura macrolepis* of Peters, which I have never seen, and its locality is unknown; it has evidently the typical caudal disk of *Silybura*. Dr. Günther omits all mention of this species in his synopsis of the species published in the Society's 'Proceedings' in March 1875.

I wish that I could attach the same importance as Dr. Günther does to the number of the abdominal plates; if he is correct in this, I have several new species of the ocellated *Silyburæ* like *S. ocellata*, *liura*, and *melanogaster*.

Specimens of all the species described in this paper have been sent to the British Museum.

10. On the *Larinæ* or Gulls.

By HOWARD SAUNDERS, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

[Received December 31, 1877.]

A revision of the *Larinæ* is a more difficult task than that of the *Sterninæ*, the members of the present subfamily being subject to far greater variations in plumage on their passage from youth to age than is customary with the Terns. The latter, although offering differences in individual size and graduation of tint which are often extremely puzzling, may be said to have only two, or at most three, stages of plumage, viz. the immature, the winter-, and the adult



Beddome, R. H. 1878. "Descriptions of new Uropeltidae from Southern India, with remarks on some previously described species." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1878, 154–155.

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