

I have written the above with considerable reluctance—first, because it partakes more of the nature of biological controversy than of any acquisition to our knowledge; and secondly, because I share with my old friend and late colleague, R. Meldola, so much in common in the points discussed and admiration for his sanguine and bold attachment to advanced theories and conclusions, for which his severe training in more than one branch of science and great natural abilities particularly fit him. I still, however, believe that “original work” is distinct from “original guessing,” and that the most advanced evolutionist may be excused if, though he bases his conclusions on the first, he withholds his assent to the last whilst in the uncorroborated stage; and in the present discussion this is neither restricting the “original theory within such narrow limits that no philosophical entomologist can possibly accept [the] interpretation,” nor does it indicate “a retrograde step which few scientific entomologists will be disposed to take.”

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#### VI.—Description of a new Genus of Cœciliæ.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

THE following species is the second of the order Apoda discovered in East Africa. It is the type of a very marked genus, presenting a curious combination of characters. Its nearest ally I consider to be *Gegenophis*, from Malabar, which has likewise the skin scaleless and the eyes hidden under the cranial bones; but it is well distinguished by having the squamosal bones in contact with the parietals, two series of teeth in the lower jaw, and by the structure of the tentacle.

#### SCOLECOMORPHUS, g. n.

Squamosals separated from parietals. A single series of teeth in the lower jaw. Eyes overroofed by bone. Tentacle flap-shaped, situated below and slightly behind the nostril. No scales.

#### *Scolecormorphus Kirkii*, sp. n.

Teeth very small, subequal. Snout very prominent, rounded. Tentacle on a large oval swelling situated on the lower surface of the snout. Body slender; 152 circular folds, all interrupted on the dorsal and ventral lines. Tail indistinct, rounded. Dark olive above, brownish olive beneath. Total length 270 millim.; greatest diameter of body 7 millim.

A single specimen, obtained through Sir J. Kirk, probably from the vicinity of Lake Tanganyika.





Boulenger, George Albert. 1883. "Description of a new genus of Coeciliae." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 11, 48–48.

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