

4. Notes on the Lizards collected in Socotra by Prof. I. Bayley Balfour. By W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received April 1, 1881.]

(Plate XLII.)

The Lizards collected in Socotra by Dr. Balfour belong to six species, three of which appear to be undescribed. The species are *Chamæleon monachus*, *Hemidactylus homæolepis*, sp. nov., *Pristurus rupestris*, *P. insignis*, sp. nov., *Eremias* (*Mesalina*) *balfouri*, sp. nov., and *Euprepes perrotteti*, var. I add some remarks on these species, with descriptions of the new forms.

CHAMÆLEON MONACHUS, Gray, P. Z. S. 1864, p. 470, pl. xxxi.

Nine specimens brought. None are so large as the type, nor are the occipital lobes in any so much developed; but in all other details of structure the correspondence is exact.

The original type of this species in the British Museum was received from this Society in 1855, with the locality Madagascar. This locality, after the discovery of the same Lizard in Socotra, must be considered doubtful. Nothing is more probable than that Chamæleons, which live well in captivity, should be transported alive from one African island to another.

HEMIDACTYLUS (LIURUS) HOMÆOLEPIS, sp. nov. (Plate XLII. fig. 2.)

H. parvus, squamis subæqualibus undique indutus, sine tuberculis majoribus; cauda rotundata, haud verticillata; unguibus minutis; poris inguinalibus paucis, femoralibus nullis; scutis supralabialibus 8, infralabialibus 7.

Body and tail covered with small scales without any tubercles. Last joint of thumb present; all claws very minute, that of the thumb especially. Tail rounded, not verticillate. Four inguinal pores in the only male examined; they are arranged in a curve with the convexity directed forwards; no femoral pores. Eight upper and seven lower labials. Ear-orifice about the size of one of the hinder upper labials.

The flat rounded subgranular scales covering the trunk are subequal in size, but in the middle of the back they are rather smaller than on the sides. Those on the occiput are very small; on the nose they are rather larger and more convex. Scales of the abdomen small, no larger than those on the sides, and passing so gradually into the latter that it is impossible to count the number exactly; but there are more than 40 across the belly. Transverse lamellæ 5 or 6 beneath the thumb and first toe, 7 to 9 beneath the other digits, the proximal two or three on each digit being undivided. The scales above the tail and on its sides are about the same size as those on the back, and are arranged in not very distinct rings, each composed of a single row of scales; there is no division into segmental verticils as in most species of *Hemidactylus*. A row



R. Mittern del et lith.

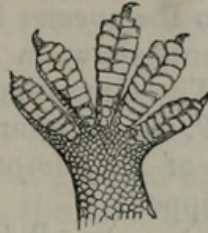
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- 1. PRISTURUS INSIGNIS.
- 2. HEMIDACTYLUS HOMŒOLEPIS.



of broad subcaudal shields begins some distance behind the anus, and is continued nearly to the tip of the tail.

Fig. 1.



Foot of *Hemidactylus homœolepis*.

Colour above grey, rather irregularly spotted with black. Tail with about 7 transverse black bands, the last five extending all round and forming rings. Lower parts of head and body without dark marks.

Total length of the only perfect specimen 2·5 inches, from nose to anus 1·2. A larger specimen, apparently an adult male, measures 1·5 inch from nose to anus.

Two specimens only were obtained, one of which has a perfect tail. The nearest described form is probably *Liurus ornatus*¹ from Western Africa; but that is much larger, and has both enlarged tubercles on the back and femoral pores. *Hemidactylus homœolepis* must be placed in the genus *Liurus*, if the latter be considered distinct.

PRISTURUS RUPESTRIS.

Pristurus rupestris, W. Blanf., Eastern Persia, ii. p. 350, pl. xxiii. fig. 1.

Several specimens. All agree with those from Muscat and the Persian Gulf, and differ from *P. flavipunctatus*, Rüpp., in wanting a rudimentary crest on the hinder part of the back, the row of enlarged and more or less spinose scales commencing on the upper surface of the tail just above the anus in *P. rupestris*, whereas it begins near the middle of the back in males, or a little farther back, above the pelvis, in females, as stated in Rüppell's original description². The limbs and the toes too are considerably longer in *P. rupestris*, though still far inferior to those of *P. longipes*³. The latter species is found at Aden and Massowa, whilst *P. rupestris* occurs in Socotra, at Muscat in Arabia, and on the island of Khárg (Karrack) in the Persian Gulf, near Bushire. *P. flavipunctatus* was originally obtained from Massowa; and there are also specimens in the British Museum said to be from Syria.

In *P. longipes*, according to Peters, the length of the hind foot, including the longest toe, considerably exceeds that of the head, whilst in *P. flavipunctatus* the length of the hind foot equals the distance from the end of the snout to the ear-opening. There are typical specimens of *P. flavipunctatus* in the British Museum, received from Dr. Rüppell himself; and in these the length of the hind foot

¹ Gray, Cat. Lizards B. M. p. 157.

² Neue Wirbelthiere, Amphibien, p. 17.

³ Peters, Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1871, p. 566.

to the end of the third toe is less than the distance from the ear-opening to the end of the snout, whilst the two measurements are identical in *P. rupestris*. The proportions of the limbs to the body, however, in the British-Museum specimens of *P. flavipunctatus* agree with those assigned to the species by Peters.

The following measurements show, in parts of a metre, the differences in these species. The dimensions of *P. longipes* are those given by Peters; those of *P. rupestris* are from one of the largest Socotran specimens; those of *P. flavipunctatus*, from one of the specimens received from Rüppell.

	<i>P. longipes.</i>	<i>P. rupestris.</i>	<i>P. flavipunctatus.</i>
Head and body, from nose to anus ...	0·040	0·030	0·032
Head alone	0·009	0·009	0·009
Fore leg	0·021	0·015	0·013
Fore foot, to end of third finger	0·007	0·005	0·004
Hind leg	0·030	0·020	0·0175
Hind foot, to end of third toe	0·012	0·008	0·005

The specimens of *P. rupestris*, from Socotra, have for the most part a broad rufous band down the middle of the back. The sides of the back and the flanks are dark brown, spotted or striped with very light brown; there are one or two pale bands down the sides, and one conspicuous pale stripe below the eye, from the lower labials. The lower parts of the flanks and the sides of the belly have small brick-red spots dotted over them. This coloration differs in no important particular from that of Muscat and Persian-Gulf specimens.

PRISTURUS INSIGNIS, sp. nov. (Plate XLII. fig. 1.)

P. major, gracilis, squamis minimis undique indutus; cauda compressa sed crista carente; pede posteriore antice adducto ante aurem jungente, anteriore ante extremitatem rostri. Long. tota 0·147 met., caudæ 0·095, capitis 0·014, pedis posterioris ab inguine 0·038.

Much larger than the other species of the genus, and without any enlarged or spinose scales along the upper edge of the tail, which is elongate, attenuate, and compressed, as in the other forms, General form very slender; limbs and toes long, the fore limb laid back extends to the groin, and laid forwards extends beyond the snout by the length of the hand, the hind limb laid forwards reaches to beyond the ear.

Scales of the back and sides minute, granular, those of the belly scarcely larger, but less convex. Tail-scales larger than those of the back, and becoming imbricate behind; the upper edge of the tail sharply compressed, but without any enlarged scales, lower edge rounded, with a row of larger smooth imbricate subcaudals, the scales on each side of the subcaudals forming a passage in size into the ordinary tail-scales. Scales above the limbs like those on the back, those beneath the forearm and tarsus larger. Beneath the feet, the scales of the soles are small and granular, with the exception of rows of larger scales from the first and fifth fingers to the wrist, and from the first toe to the heel. The fingers and toes are

covered with smooth imbricate cross plates beneath. The fourth finger slightly exceeds the third; but the third toe is a little longer than the fourth.

Head short and high, the scales on the anterior upper portion in front of the eye slightly convex, considerably larger than those on the trunk, and nearly equal to those beneath the tarsus. Scales around the nostril very little larger than the others above the snout. Nostril in contact with the rostral, which is nearly twice as broad as the other supralabials, and grooved above in the middle. Supralabials on each side 6 to 9, the first 4 or 5 large, and those behind gradually diminishing in size. Three large lower labials in front on each side, and some small shields behind; median infralabial larger and broader than the rostral. Ear-opening large, about the size of the first upper labial.

Colour above earthy brown, with rather darker but indistinct cross bands and numerous red spots of irregular shape scattered over the back and sides; lower parts paler, chin, throat, and breast mottled with brown.

The following are the dimensions in inches:—

Total length	5·8
Length from nose to anus	2·1
Head from orifice of ear to snout	0·53
Fore limb to end of fingers	1·1
Hand from wrist to end of fourth finger	0·42
Hind limb to end of toes	1·5
Foot to end of third toe	0·52

Only two specimens of this fine species of Gecko have been procured.

EREMIAS (MESALINA) BALFOURI, sp. nov.

E. ad E. pardalem affinis, parva, mediocriter gracilis, pede posteriore vix ante humerum attingente, scuto infraoculari ad labrum pertinente, supralabialibus 4 ante oculum; palpebra inferiore in medio translucente; regione supraorbitali ex duobus scutis majoribus composita, granulis duntaxat extus marginata; collari ex squamis majoribus composito, ad latera libero, medio adhærente; scutis ventralibus in 10 series longitudinales ordinatis, extremas multo minores, sex medias majores, subæquales; præanali magno; squamis dorsalibus rotundis, parvis, sine granis intervenientibus. Corpus superne longitudinaliter fasciatum, dorso medio pallide rufescente, lateribus fasciis alternantibus nigris pallidisque ornatis.

General form rather stouter than that of *E. pardalis*, tail shorter, limbs shorter and stouter; the fore leg laid forward does not quite reach the end of the nose; the hind leg extends to the shoulder, or a little beyond. No palatal teeth. Lower eyelid with a translucent central disk more or less broken up into large plates; collar free at the sides, attached in the middle. Ventrals in longitudinal, not oblique rows. An enlarged præanal plate.

Nasal shields not very convex. The single præfrontal shield is not in contact with either the rostral or the vertical, being separated from the former by the upper nasals, and from the latter by the postfrontals. Superciliary disk nearly flat, and composed of two large



Blanford, W. T. 1881. "Notes on the lizards collected in Socotra by Professor I. Bayley Balfour." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1881, 464–469.

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