

14. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE SKINK

RIOPA GUENTHERI (GRAY)

Rev. E. M. Shull of Ahwa, Surat Dangs, Gujarat State, recently sent us a collection of reptiles from the Dangs, which included two specimens of the skink, *Riopa guentheri* (Gray), known to range from Matheran (Western Ghats, Maharashtra State) southwards to Travancore.

The present specimens extend the known range considerably northwards.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,

BOMBAY 6,

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Curator

15. SEX RATIO AND SIZE OF THE GARDEN LIZARD

(CALOTES VERSICOLOR DAUD.)

Over the last two years 757 adults of the Bloodsucker Lizard *Calotes versicolor* Daud. were collected at Varanasi, U.P., and some of them are still kept alive for the study of their growth rates. The lizards were trapped locally by professionals using *lassa* (a mixture of latex and oil) at the end of a long rod, with no discrimination regarding size or sex. The following observations may be of interest:

(a) 239 were females and 498 males, indicating a sex ratio of approximately 2.08 males for every female.

(b) No female with a snout to vent length of more than 100 mm. was handled, and we may presume that this is the maximum size to which a female of this species can grow at Varanasi. Males, however, grew to 110 mm., three individuals exceeding this size, 112 mm. (2) and 113 mm. The Varanasi population thus appears to be intermediate, as may be anticipated, between the small Indo-Chinese form (95 mm. maximum body length in males) and the larger peninsular Indian form 120 to 140 mm. (1935, Smith, M. A.: FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, II, Sauria, p. 189.)

(c) Contrary to popular belief and the statement by Smith, it is not males alone that assume crimson colour and black patches; females and castrates of both sexes also assume



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