

Meeting for Business, and Annual Meeting.

December 31, 1844.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee to whom was referred the following paper by Dr. Hallowell, read November 5, 1844, reported in favor of publication.

Description of New Species of African Reptiles.

By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

COLUBER *Phillipsii*.

Description.—Head elongated, flattened, covered above with nine plates; the rostral plate is hexagonal, rounded above, incurvated beneath, there are two anterior and two posterior frontal plates; the anterior are pentagonal; their posterior margin is the broadest. The posterior frontal are very large, pentagonal; there are two supra-orbital, and one vertical plate; the supra-orbital are of moderate size, the occipital are very large, triangular; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed between them; there is an anterior frontal, and a loreal plate; there are two posterior orbital plates; the eyes are large, the neck is narrow, the body is long and tapering, the scales upon the body are smooth and quadrangular; the tail is of moderate length.

Colour.—Body and tail greenish-olive above, with numerous black points; chin and throat light yellow; under surface of abdomen and tail tea-green. Abdominal scuta 172: subcaudal 22.

Dimensions.

				<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	1
Greatest breadth posteriorly,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	3	0
Length of tail,	-	-	-	0	$3\frac{5}{8}$

This species I have named after my friend John S. Phillips, Esq.

BUFO cinereus.

Description.—Head small, body of moderate size, covered with numerous small warts; head and body of a light ash colour, with numerous dark coloured spots or blotches; under surface of chin, abdomen and limbs, light yellow; irides ———.

Dimensions

					<i>Inches.</i>
Length of body,	-	-	-	-	2
Length of head,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
Breadth,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
Length of anterior extremities,	-	-	-	-	1
Length of posterior,	-	-	-	-	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Length of tarsus to extremity of longest toe,	-	-	-	-	1

PLESTIODON Harlani.

Description.—Head of moderate size, covered above with plates; of these the rostral is large, and rounded above; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed between them; the vertical is large, elongated, hexagonal, incurvated laterally; there are six supra-orbital plates: there are two anterior orbital with a loral placed between them and the nostril; there is one posterior orbital and three inferior orbital; there is a posterior frontal, which is large and pentagonal; there is a small quadrangular plate intermediate between the anterior frontal and the first supra-orbital plate; there are six superior labials; the scales upon the back and sides of the body are hexagonal, presenting three striæ upon their surface; there are eight rows of smooth, hexagonal scales upon the abdomen, and five upon the under surface of the tail; tail cylindrical, covered with numerous hexagonal scales; extremities short and thick.

Colour.—Head, neck, and upper part of body light brown; sides of body presenting numerous dark coloured bands, extending from the back to the abdomen; the intermediate spaces are white; abdomen and under surface of tail, of a light yellow colour.

Dimensions.

	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head, - - - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Breadth of head posteriorly, - - -	$\frac{5}{8}$
Length of body, - - - -	4
Length of tail, - - - -	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Length of extremity to extremity of longest finger, - - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Length of posterior extremities, - -	$1\frac{5}{8}$

This species I have named after the late Dr. Harlan.

DIPSAS Blandingii.

Description.—Head of moderate size, rather large, covered with nine plates, the central is large, pentagonal, broad in front; the supra-orbital are pentangular; they are curved inferiorly for the reception of the superior margin of the eye; there are two anterior and two posterior frontal plates; the posterior are quadrangular, larger than the anterior; the anterior are quadrangular; the rostral plate is large; there are two nasal plates, the anterior the largest, with the nostril placed between them; there are two anterior orbital plates, and two posterior; the anterior are quadrangular; the eye is large and projecting; between the nostrils and the anterior orbital plates is a loral plate which is quadrangular; there are five temporal plates, the posterior of which is the largest; there are nine superior orbital, of which the eighth is large and quadrangular; the posterior part of the head is covered with scales; the body is long, thick in the middle: the neck is slender; the scales of the body are smooth and quadrangular, with the exception of a row along the middle of the back, which are hexagonal.

Colour.—The superior and under parts of the body are light yellow; the body presents upon each side a series of blotches, of a leaden colour; the upper part of the head is light bluish; the throat and jaws are yellow. Abdominal scuta 272; subcaudal 131.

Dimensions.

				<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Breadth,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{3}{4}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	4	0
Length of tail,	-	-	-	1	$3\frac{1}{2}$

Habitat.—Liberia, West Africa.

The above specimen was placed in my hands by my friend Dr. Blanding, in whose honour I have named it.

TROPIDOLEPIS Africanus.

Description.—Head of moderate size, quadrangular, depressed in front, supra-orbital ridges much developed; there is a ridge extending from the eye to near the extremity of the snout; the nostril is small, circular, placed nearer the extremity of the snout than the anterior margin of the orbit; between this ridge and the superior margin of the under jaw there is a depression, which is well marked; the tympanum is of a moderate size, depressed, at some distance below the level of the surrounding surface. There are twelve quadrilateral plates extending along the margin of the upper jaw. The rostral plate is hexagonal. There are eleven or twelve small quadrangular plates along the under margin of the under jaw. The head is covered with imbricated, polygonal scales; those upon the front and posterior part of it are strongly carinated; the vertical plate is hexagonal. The eyelids are covered with numerous small granules. There are two folds under the neck, which are well marked. The body is covered with quadrangular scales which are carinated. The tail is flattened beneath, rounded above and upon the sides. It exceeds the length of the head and body by about one inch. The abdomen, and under surface of the throat are covered with small quadrangular scales, which are also carinated; those upon the chin are smooth. The submental plate is smooth, pentagonal. The anterior extremities, when extended along the sides of the body, meet as far as the thighs. The posterior exceed the anterior extremities by the whole length of the toes and tarsus. The under surface of the legs, feet and tail, are covered with scales, which are strongly carinated. There are thirteen præanal pores. There is a small crest, extending from the occiput along the neck, and between the shoulders.

Colour.—Head brownish above; superior parts of body, tail and extremities, of a leaden ash colour. The same colour predominates upon the under surface of the chin and upon the abdomen. Under surface of thighs, legs and tail, light straw colour.

Dimensions.

					<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	-	1
Breadth posteriorly,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{3}{4}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	-	$2\frac{1}{4}$
Length of tail,	-	-	-	-	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Length of anterior extremities,	-	-	-	-	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Length of posterior extremities,	-	-	-	-	$2\frac{1}{8}$

LEPTOPHIS viridis.

Description.—Head of moderate size, covered above with nine plates, which are smooth; the rostral is hexagonal; the anterior frontal are pentagonal: the posterior frontal are larger than the anterior; they are hexagonal: there are six circum-orbital plates, the anterior of which are the largest: the supra-orbital plates are large: the vertical plate is also large and hexagonal, the anterior margin is the broadest: the occipital plates are large and pentagonal: there are eight superior labial plates, the seventh of which is the largest: the body is slender, covered above with quadrangular scales, which are smooth: the tail is covered above with numerous small hexagonal scales: those upon the under surface are bifid.

Colour.—Green upon the under surface of the body and tail; under surface of chin, neck and throat, of a light cream colour.

Dimensions.

				<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	1
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{5}{6}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Length of tail,	-	-	-	0	5

Abdominal scuta, 211: subcaudal 107.

COLUBER ater.

Description.—Head of moderate size, covered above with nine plates: the anterior frontal are triangular; the posterior are large, and pentagonal; the vertical plate is also pentagonal; the supra-orbital plates are quadrangular; the occipital plates are large; the rostral plate is quadrangular, its superior margin being rounded where it is joined to the anterior and the nasal plates; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed between them; there are eight superior labials: the eyes are of moderate size, and projecting; irides —; the neck is slender, the body rounded, covered above and upon the sides with quadrangular carinated scales; tail of moderate length, tapering, rather more than one-fourth the length of the body. Abdominal scuta 144: subcaudal 72.

Colour.—Head jet black above; body dark brown, approaching to black, with numerous irregular black bands, placed at unequal distances, extending as far as the abdomen; throat, chin, and under parts of body, light green, clouded with numerous dark coloured spots; under part of tail dark brown, approaching to black.

Dimensions.

					<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
Breadth,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{5}{16}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	-	$9\frac{3}{4}$
Length of tail,	-	-	-	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$

The above species are all from Liberia, West coast of Africa. They were brought to this country, with one exception, by Dr. Goheen, and put in the possession of S. S. Haldeman, Esq., of Columbia, Pennsylvania, to whose kindness I am indebted for the opportunity of describing them.



Hallowell, Edward. 1844. "Description of new species of African reptiles."
Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia 1844, 169–172.

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