

A NEW BLIND SNAKE FROM THE DUKE OF YORK ISLAND.

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THE species herein described, is represented by two specimens, collected, together with other material, in the Duke of York Island, by the Rev. George Brown, D.D., and forwarded to the Museum many years ago. For this snake I propose the name of—

TYPHLOPS SUBOCULARIS, sp. nov.

Habit stout, of even thickness. Head flat, much depressed. Snout prominent, with a rather acute, but not sharp, edge. Rostral above, very narrow, about one-sixth the width of the head, reaching but little more than half-way to the level of the eyes; the portion visible from beneath somewhat longer than broad; nasal incompletely divided, the fissure extending from the anterior portion of the second labial. Nostrils inferior, preocular, but little narrower than the ocular, separated from the labials by one scale, ocular separated by two scales. Four upper labials, the anterior three very narrow. The mandible is Λ -shaped, the symphysis very acute, and the scales adjoining the labials oblique. Diameter of the middle of the body thirty times in the total length. Tail longer than broad, terminating in a large thorn-like spine. Thirty-six (specimen A.) or thirty-four (specimen B.) scales round the middle of body.

Colours.—In spirits, dark brown above, yellow beneath, the two areas strongly marked, line of union interrupted.

Dimensions.

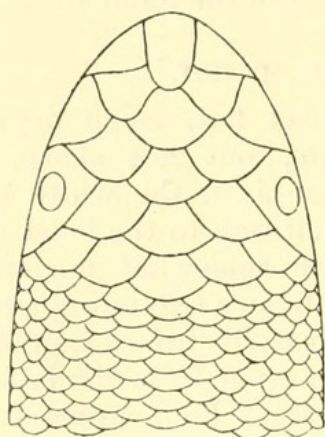
	A. (Type).	B.
Total length	360.0 mm.	280.0 mm.
Length of head	7.5 „	6.0 „
Width of head	9.0 „	7.5 „
Width of body	12.1 „	9.2 „
Length of tail	17.3 „	7.8 „
Width of tail	11.5 „	6.5 „

Habitat.—Duke of York Island. Two specimens.

Type.—In the Australian Museum, Sydney.

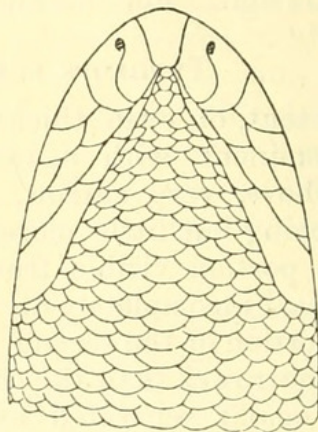
This species will come into Division III. of Boulenger's synopsis,* "a præocular and one or two suboculars," but will fit into neither of the subordinate groups, the character of the snout not being sufficiently marked. Taking the number of scales round the body, namely, thirty-four to thirty-six, the only described species with which it thus agrees is *T. acutus*,† at once distinguishable (apart from its distribution) by the peculiar snout and the remarkable size of the rostral.

A species, *T. depressus*,‡ has previously been made known from the Duke of York Island; in this the præocular is in contact with the labials, and a comparison of Peters' figures (a reference to which Mr. Boulenger has, in his Catalogue,§ omitted) with those below given, shows how widely the two species differ.



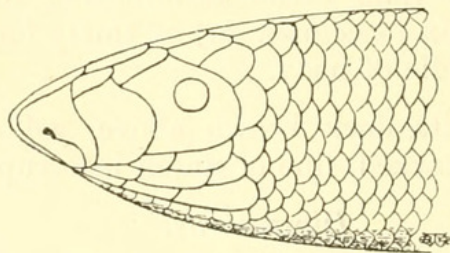
1.

From above.



2.

From below.



3.

In profile.

Head of *Typhlops subocularis* (enlarged).

* Boulenger—Brit. Mus. Cat. Snakes, i., 1893, p. 14.

† Dum. et Bibr., *Erpét. gén.*, vi., 1844, p. 333.

‡ Peters—*Monatsb. K. Preuss. Akad. Wiss. Berlin*, 1880, p. 220, fig. 3 (p. 309).

§ Boulenger—*loc. cit.*, p. 33.



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