

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RACE OF CHAMELEONS FROM BRITISH
EAST AFRICA.

BY THOMAS BARBOUR.

The receipt of Werner's recent revision of the Chameleons, which has just appeared in *Das Tierreich*, edited by F. E. Schultze (Lieferung 27, Chamaeleontidae, pages 1-52, August, 1911), was the incentive for a re-examination of the material in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In a collection made last year by Messrs. Childs Frick and W. R. Zappey, and kindly presented to the Museum by Mr. Frick, there is a single female which can not be reconciled with any of the published descriptions. It may be known as

***Chamaeleo tenuis excubitor* subsp. nov.**

This species agrees in many respects with the characters given by Werner (*Zool. Jahrb. syst.* 15, 1902, pp. 322 and 385 and l. c. 1911, pp. 7 and 38), for *C. tenuis* Matschie. Thus it lacks both gular and ventral crests, has no trace of occipital lobes, has a tail greater in length than that of the body, and lacks knob-like tubercles along the vertebral line.

Werner records the typical *C. tenuis tenuis* Matschi from Usambara and Ukami in German East Africa. He remarks that it is a rare species, reaching a maximum size of 168 mm. for the male, and 138 mm. for the female. The type of this new race is a female which is similar to the female of the typical form in lacking the white line along the belly, but distinguished by its larger size and by the different arrangement of its cranial crests, as the following description shows:

Description.—Casque slightly raised posteriorly with a very indistinct parietal crest; lateral crests, well developed with strong conical tubercles; these lateral crests, instead of extending backwards from the orbit at first in a horizontal direction and then rising directly upward (Werner, 1902, p. 385, pl. 15, middle figure), make a gentle upward curve from the posterior border of the orbit to where they meet at the posterior apex of the well rounded casque.

Upper head scales, flat, polygonal, very irregular in size, eight rows between the superciliary borders (six are mentioned by Werner, 1911, p. 38, for *C. tenuis tenuis*). Body scales distributed in irregular horizontal series, each two or three tubercles wide, and separated from one another by minute scales; these lateral tubercles are homogeneous in size, flat but of somewhat irregular outline. No occipital lobes.

Only a few slightly enlarged tubercles along the mid-dorsal line; otherwise no dorsal crest. Neither gular nor ventral crest.

Limbs long and slender. Tail much longer than head and body, strongly compressed. A single enlarged tubercle in the middle of the posterior border of the casque, where the lateral crests meet.

Type No. 7828, Reptile Collection, Museum of Comparative Zoology, adult female from the Mweru District, north of Mt. Kenia, British East Africa, W. R. Zappey, collector.

It is unfortunately necessary to describe this new form from the female alone. The male of the German East African species bears an elaborate rostral appendage, described by Werner. This, of course, is absent in the female, though it is to be presumed that the male of this new race is provided with a somewhat similar outgrowth.

The total length of the type is 176 mm., 8 mm. longer than the largest male of *C. tenuis tenuis*, and 38 mm. longer than the largest female. This character, together with the other more important ones seen in casque form and squamation would seem to indicate a strongly marked geographical race as occurring sparingly in the region north of Mt. Kenia.



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