AMPHISBÆNA ROSEA.

Var. A. Albæ.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Annuli trunci caudæque.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 392.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPHISBÆNA annulis trunci circiter 223;
caudæ 16.

Generis Amphisbænæ perpaucae quæ noscuntur species a plerisque serpentibus tantum differunt, ut eas primo visu vermes potius quam angues putemus: squamis enim penitus carent, quarum in loco corpus cingunt annuli seu spatia circularia æque distantia, quæ striis innumeris in longitudinem ductis decussantur. Caput in areas paucas dividitur, squamis majoribus in pleroque colubrino genere non abfimiles; caudaque non sensim attenuata, sed vix a proportionem cæteri corporis recedens, apiceque valde obtuso seu rotundato. Orta est ab hac forma vulgaris opinio, Amphisbænæ duo esse capita, unum scilicet in utraque extremitate: cum enim oculi adeo minuti sint ut primo visu non distinguantur, eo fit ut inter caput et oppositum extremum ambiguum sit discrimen. Hujus generis species maxima est Amphisbæna alba; ob colorem pallidulum, gil-

vum scilicet, seu fere album, sic nominata. Colore
tamen est interdum pulcherrime roseo, qualis in tabula
depingitur. Non raro pedali est longitudine. Ameri-
cam incolit et plane innocuus est serpens.

THE
ROSE-COLOURED AMPHISBÆNA.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

The whole animal marked by annuli or circular segments.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

AMPHISBÆNA with the annuli of the body amounting to about 223 ; of the tail 16.

The animals of the genus *Amphisbæna*, which contains but very few species, differ so much from the major part of the serpent tribe, as to be almost liable, on a cursory view, to be mistaken for worms rather than snakes ; being totally destitute of scales ; instead of which the whole animal is marked with equidistant annuli, or circular spaces surrounding the body, and de-cussated by an infinite number of longitudinal divisions or striae. The head is marked with a few large divisions or spaces analogous to the large scales in the major part of the genus *Coluber* ; and the tail, instead of tapering gradually, is scarce distinguishable from the proportion of the rest of the body ; and is extremely obtuse or rounded. This peculiarity of shape in the genus *Amphisbæna*, gave rise to the erroneous idea of the *Amphisbæna* being furnished with a head at each extremity :

mity : for as the eyes are very small, and at first view inconspicuous, the head bears no striking mark of distinction from the opposite extremity. The largest species of this genus, is the *Amphisbæna alba* ; so called from its colour ; which is a very pale cream-colour, or nearly white : it sometimes however occurs of a beautiful rose-colour, in which state it is represented on the annexed plate. The *Amphisbæna alba* is frequently seen of at least a foot in length. It is a native of America, and is perfectly harmless.

Shaw, George. 1791. "The Rose-Coloured Amphisbæna, Amphisbæna rosea [Pl. 86]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 3(XXVIII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304506>

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