

This cannot be considered a distinct species until a good series of skins be obtained, proving this phase of plumage to be constant. We sadly want a carefully collected and large series of all these forms, with the sexes carefully determined by discretion, and until this be obtained we shall not be able to arrive at any definite conclusion respecting them. It would appear that this golden headed phase is intermediate between the brown and black headed birds, and I have also before me a *crimson* headed bird in change from the *black*. If this *golden headed* bird were not decidedly a young individual one might be induced to describe it as a new species, showing parallel phases of plumage with *P. mirabilis*, and in the adult acquiring a *golden* instead of a *crimson* head. Those ornithologists, therefore, who take this view of the question may distinguish the *golden headed* forms by the name of *P. armitiana*, in the same way that some good ornithologists, considering the black headed birds to be a distinct species, distinguish them under the name of *Poëphila gouldiæ*.

Description of a supposed *new species* of *Acanthophis*, from North Australia.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c.

ACANTHOPHIS PRAELONGUS. SP. NOV.

Scales in 21 rows; abdominal plates, about 120; anal, 1; subcaudals, *undivided*, 26 *divided*, 24-24. Head, elongate, about three times as long as broad; distance between the eye and snout equal to interorbital space; superciliaries rough, ridged, much elevated, and extended over the eye; eye, large; *pupil*, *round*; plates of the head slightly rugose; the body elongate, scales on the back keeled in about 10 rows, the keels becoming less developed towards the tail; tail, a little over a fifth of the total length. The *nasal orifices* large, *placed a little behind the middle of a large plate*.* General colour of the upper surface, dark ashy brown, darker on the head and tail, the neck, body,

*In Mr. Krefft's work on the Snakes of Australia, I find it stated (p. 79) that, in the genus *Acanthophis* the "*nostrils*" are "*between two shields*." This is a mistake, as in none of the numerous examples I have examined of any species of this genus are they so placed. The subcaudals are moreover two-rowed in nearly half of their number.

and tail banded with narrow light ashy brown bands, and a blackish line formed by the black margins of a series of scales, the bands and lines being about 50 in number, rather indistinct on the neck and tail. The tail is laterally flattened towards the end, and shows an irregular row of white dots along the side, from the anal shield to the tip; all the under surface is whitish yellow, closely spotted with dark brown, in a double line along the sides; and in a regular transverse series through the centre of each abdominal plate; gular scales with one spot on each; chin shields, and lower labials, white, with blackish irregular markings. The six upper labials more or less margined with whitish below; the 4th, 5th, and 6th, and the temporal, blackish in their central portions.

Total length of the specimen, 16·5 inches; head, 1 inch by 0·6 inch; tail, 3 inches; from the eye to the snout, 0·35 inch; from snout to angle of mouth, 0·8 inch.

Hab. Cape York.

This species may be distinguished from all other species I know of by its elongated head, *round pupil*, *large eye*, and *high, overhanging superciliary shields*. The nostril is also large, and placed a little behind the middle of a large elongated nasal plate.

The specimen above described, the Museum has lately received in a collection of reptiles, &c., from Cape York, presented by Mr. W. Powell, of Somerset. During my last tour in Northern Queensland, I examined a large number of Death-adders, one of the most common snakes there, but without meeting with any but the common Sydney species, *Acanthophis antarctica*.

EXHIBITS.

Mr. E. P. Ramsay exhibited a new species of *Euryscaphus*, family *Scaritidæ*. Three specimens of a burrowing frog, allied to *Lymnodynastes dorsalis* (Gray), taken by James Ramsay, Esq., near the Merool Creek, Lachlan district. A species of *Antennarius*, of an inky-black colour, taken in Port Jackson. Specimens of *Poëphila mirabilis*, illustrative of the differences in plumage exhibited in this species. Specimen of the death-adder, *Acanthophis praelongus*, described in the last paper.

Mr. Brazier exhibited a new species of *Helix* from New Guinea, and announced his intention of reading a description of it at the next meeting of the Society.

MONDAY, 25TH JUNE, 1877.

W. J. STEPHENS, Esq., M.A., President, in the Chair.

DONATIONS.

Compte Rendu de la Soc. Entomologique de Belgique, Ser. II., No. 37, by the Society.

History of Australian Tertiary Geology.—Geology of Portland.—On a new genus of Nudibranchiata.—On the Fresh Water Shells of Tasmania. — Description of New Tasmanian Shells.—Figures of Tertiary Fossils from Table Cape, Tasmania, by the author, the REV. J. E. TENISON WOODS.

PAPERS READ.

Continuation of the Mollusca collected during the "Chevert" Expedition, by J. BRAZIER, C.M.Z.S., Corr. Mem. Roy. Soc. Tas.

FAMILY CHITONIDÆ.

1.—TONICIA PICTA.

Chiton pictus, Reeve, Conch. Icon., pl. 15, sp. 79.

Hab. Darnley Island, Torres Straits. Two fine specimens found under stones.

2.—TONICIA SP?

Hab. Darnley Island, Torres Straits. One specimen found under a stone, not in good condition. About seven lines long.

3.—CHITON PICEUS.

Chiton piceus, Gmel. Syst. Nat., p. 3204.

" " Reeve, Conch. Icon., pl. 13, sp. 70.

Hab. Darnley Island, Torres Straits, found on the reefs under coral, specimens from four to five inches long. Port Jackson specimens two inches long.



Ramsay, Edward Pearson. 1877. "Description of a supposed new species of *Acanthophis* from North Australia." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 2, 72–74.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/22891>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/33076>

Holding Institution

MBLWHOI Library

Sponsored by

MBLWHOI Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.