

## ON NEW AUSTRALIAN LIZARDS.

BY C. W. DE VIS.

SINCE the date of Dr. Gunther's List of Australian Lizards (Zoology, Erebus and Terror) additions to that record have been made by himself in the Annals of Nat. Hist., and Journal of the Goddefroy Museum, by Professor Cope in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Science, but in far greater number by Professor Peters and other German naturalists in periodicals of that country. Much, however, remains to be discovered about the specific forms of our saurians and it is unfortunate for Queensland observers that so much of what is known in detail is nearly inaccessible. The descriptions of the newer species are in works obtained with difficulty. The types of the older ones are in Europe, and the descriptions of them by Dr. Gray are in most cases utterly useless. One day doubtless all these will be re-described, and the scattered notices of the others will be brought together for the behoof of the Australian student, who will, then at least, be no longer beholden to extraneous naturalists for the determination of new forms. The time indeed will come, in or before the next generation let us hope, when the practice of sending collections to be studied in Europe will be considered disgraceful. In this respect the mother colony is setting a good example to her offspring and her sisters, and that it should not be followed by all is even now not altogether satisfactory.

During a recent examination of the lizards in the Queensland Museum there have occurred several species which are evidently undescribed—of these three are now submitted to the notice of the Society.

SILUBOSAURUS ZELLINGI.—Habit short, broad, depressed, especially on the tail which is less than half as long as the body. The head forms an isosceles triangle with its apex truncated, its sides flat, cuneiform. Head shields thick, rugose. The narial portion of the nasal is entirely separated from the posterior part by the nasal groove. Ear orifice fringed anteriorly with three bifid free scales. Labials  $\frac{8}{8}$ . Interparietal large, larger than frontoparietals, not enclosed behind. Scales of the trunk in 38 rows—those of the lower surface smooth, sub-equal; the preanals larger. The central subcaudals but little larger than the laterals.



Scales on the back large and increasing in size on the tail, the post-occipitals with several obtuse denticles. The spines of the scales as the latter recede from the occiput become gradually fewer till on the tail they form 8 rows of single spines, the two lateral rows on each side being much the longest. Limbs strong, sub-equal in length, sequence of toes  $\frac{1 \ 5 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4}{1 \ 5 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4}$

Colour, reddish grey above with darker lines along the rows of spines, and irregular light patches arranged sub-linearly, the three medial rows being pretty regular. The ground colour descends on the sides in irregular streaks. Beneath grey.

Total length	83 lines	Length between the limbs	30 lines
Length of tail	21 lines	Length of fore limb	17 lines
Length of head	13 lines	Length of fourth toe	5 lines
Breadth of head at ears	10 lines	Length of hind limb	20 lines
" " eyes	$6\frac{1}{2}$ lines	Length of fourth toe	$5\frac{1}{2}$ lines

Locality, Barcoo. This specimen was kindly contributed by Mr. C. W. De Burgh Birch, Count Zelling. As this gentleman has on previous occasions shown his desire to promote zoology, he is entitled to the compliment of having his name associated with the species. The lizard agrees with *S. depressus*, Gunther, in being much depressed posteriorly, and with *S. Stokesii*, Gr., in the caudal scales being unispinous. In colouring it differs from both.

CEURA TRYONI.—A large supranasal in contact by suture with its fellow of the opposite side, or occasionally separated by an intercalated frontal scale. The longitudinal and transverse sutures between the rostral and supranasals form a cross upon the muzzle. Labials  $\frac{11}{12}$  the ninth under the pupil, the three symphyseal shields are the largest below. No infralabials. Scales large, especially on the back and postanal convexity, those of the under side of the head a little smaller than those of the chest. Tail rounded, conical, rapidly tapering. Head shorter than in *O. marmorata*. The postanal swelling large with one large flat scale on each side, sub-digital cushions of digits 1 to 3, single at the base and in 3 pairs medial smaller than the terminals; of toes, 2, 3, and 4, with two single at the base, and four pairs medial, pollex with a single one in lieu of the distal pair.

Colour above grey to dark-brown, the markings variable, generally pale on a dark ground, occasionally the reverse, consisting of ocellated spots more or less confluent and irregularly scattered, or of obscurely defined pale-centred angular spots very confluent, or round pale spots enclosed in dark cross bands over the back and on the head, in lines converging to the nape, or of pale irregular flecks on a dark ground with streaks from the ear



converging to the neck. Tail with angular spots and streaks of black. The young dark brown, with white bars on the nape, 10—12 bars composed of more or less distinct double spots on the back and tail and the sides a little spotted.

Total length	26—21 lines	Length between the limbs	13—17 lines
Length of tail	21—18 lines	Length of fore limb	8—6 lines
Length of head	7—5½ lines	Length of hind limb	10—9½ lines
Length of snout	3½—2½ lines		
Length of interorbit	2½—2 lines		

Locality, Stanthorpe. Collected by the Hon. Sec., Mr. H. Tryon, to whom it is dedicated.

The characteristics of the species are its contiguous supranasals, the conspicuous ocellations of its back and flanks, and its large scales. It is by far the handsomest of its kind.

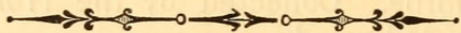
*AMPHIBOLURUS BRANCHIALIS*.—Habit, elongate with powerful limbs. Head large, deep, triangular, with large parotids. Nuchal crest high, composed of 10—15 compressed scales passing suddenly but without interval into the dorsal, which is also high and continued to the middle of the tail, the rest of the tail bicarinate as in *Hydrosaurus*. Scales of the head angularly tubercular, of the supraorbital smaller. The superorbital region is limited axiad by a curved row of ridge-like scales. A few large conical scales on the upper edge of the parotid—3—4 very large ones on its posterior angle, and below it a long row of conical scales in a line with the lower edge of the mandible. Labials large, with a row of similar scales along the lower edge of the mandible. Scales of the neck and shoulders granular, of the flanks and tail rhombic, sharply keeled; 7—8 oblique rows of large conical scales on the sides, similar rows on the thighs and shanks. Scales of the chin elongately tubercular, of the throat rhombic; of the lower part of the abdomen rhombic, flat, almost smooth. Femoral pores 8—9 in a closely beset line with occasionally an additional group behind it. Preanal pores 2—3.

Colour, grey to dark brown, with 6—7 more or less persistent black cross bands. A broad black streak from the eye through the ear to the hinder edge of the parotid, and a large black patch on the shoulder. Dorsal crest black with occasional white scales. In the young the cross bands of larger scales are frequently white.

Total length	294 lines	Length between the limbs	33 lines.
Length of tail	201 lines	Length of fore limb	39 lines.
Length of head	21 lines	Length of fourth toe	11 lines.
Breadth of head at ears	15 lines	Length of hind limb	71 lines.
Breadth of head at eyes	10 lines	Length of fourth toe	17 lines.



Locality, neighbourhood of Brisbane, common in most of the creeks. Its habits are essentially aquatic; it may with caution be often observed sitting on the snags beside the water, into which it drops at the slightest alarm. Occasionally it rises to protrude its nose above the surface, but like its relative *Grammatophora muricata*, and perhaps others of the sept, it can remain at the bottom for a long period. Received also from the Tweed River.



## ON A NEW FORM OF THE GENUS THERAPON.

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BY C. W. DE VIS.

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OUR fresh-water fish are as yet but very imperfectly known and we are therefore always glad to welcome a new acquaintance in this division of our fauna. Dwellers on our creeks and lagoons would, without much trouble, earn our thanks by sending for examination even dry specimens of all the fish to be caught in them, and would doubtless find that they could frequently enjoy the credit of enlarging the field of knowledge in this direction. This has been exemplified by Mr. Ling Roth, of Mackay, who has been at the pains of conveying from Lake Elphinstone the fish which awaits description. Lake Elphinstone is a sheet of water about six miles long and two miles broad, situate between Nebo and the Suttor River. It lies in a land locked basin, and is without an affluent, but, notwithstanding that it apparently receives only the water shed from the very limited slopes around it, its contents are not diminished by prolonged drought to any very great extent, and they are at all times particularly turbid. We might almost suspect the presence of mud springs at the bottom—apart from turbidity there may also be something in the water still more inimical to animal, or at least to fish life, for Mr. Ling Roth states that the fish under notice is the only one to be found in it. If so, the monopoly it has of the lake may perhaps be explained by the great adaptability to circumstances shewn by the whole genus to which it belongs. This group of Australian perches contains a goodly number of species of which some are littoral sea-fish, others inhabit brackish waters, and others prefer pools and lakes. Their occupation of a habitat unsuitable to other fishes may result from this elasticity of constitution. The Therapons form a very natural group, a pretty strict uniformity of



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