

No. XXXII.—THE SEA-SNAKE, *HYDROPHIS*  
*CÆRULESCENS* (Shaw).

A CORRECTION.

In Volume XXII of this Journal, page 638, I remarked upon a melanotic specimen of the sea-snake *Hydrophis torquatus* (Günther). Since examining this snake I have had an opportunity of investigating all the sea-snakes in the Indian Museum and in our Society's collection, I find the numbers of the teeth behind the fangs in the maxilla are of the greatest assistance in identifying these snakes, especially many species that have a very similar range of costal rows and ventral shields.

I have re-examined the snake referred to and can now very positively correct my previous identification. The snake is without doubt Shaw's *cærulescens*. I find that the teeth in the maxilla number 15, the usual number in this species. I have examined the jaws of some 20 specimens and find these teeth vary from 13 dubiously in one specimen to 17. In 20 other species of *Hydrophis* I find there are from 10 to 12 teeth in two species and from 1 to 10 in all the rest. In *torquatus* (Günther), *vel diadema* (Günther) there are 8 to 10. In addition I find that the parietal shields in this specimen do not touch the postoculars on either side, a feature I drew attention to in my monograph of the sea-snakes and mentioned as quite peculiar to this species. This escaped my notice when I first examined the specimen, or I would not have fallen into error.

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ALMORA, 16th July 1914.

No. XXXIII.—A CASE OF CANNIBALISM BY *BUNGARUS*  
*CÆRULEUS*.

A large krait was killed at dawn; when I first saw it I thought it had eggs inside, later when I came back from shooting, hours afterwards, on further examination I found that it had swallowed another snake which on extraction proved to be another krait. I regret I was unable to save the snakes entire; so I sent the heads in Boric Lotion for maceration, etc. The big snake was killed in a Marna Field.—

The measurements were as follows:—

	<i>B. cæruleus.</i> ♀ (The Host).	<i>B. cæruleus.</i> ♀ (The Guest).
Length .. .. .	3'-10½"	3'-3"
„ of Tail .. .. .	6½"	5"
„ 1st complete white band from nose ..	1'-0	1'-1"
Anterior, M. B. & P. ..	15	15
Ventrals .. .. .	215	211
Subcaudals .. .. .	54	52
„ and anal ..	Entire	Entire
Weight .. .. .	9 oz.	6 oz.

I fancy the host was killed almost immediately after accommodating the guest, practically no damage from digestion. The guest was just about to cast its skin. Guest was swallowed head first and nose of guest was 4½ inches from host's vent.

O. A. SMITH, MAJOR.

HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT, August 1914.

[ In Major Wall's article on the krait (A popular treatise on the Common Snakes of India) at p. 720, Vol. XVIII, it will be seen that the food of kraits consist almost exclusively of other snakes.—EDS.]



Wall, Frank. 1913. "The sea-snake *Hydrophis coerulescens*, Shaw." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 23, 373–373.

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