

pale fawn-colour; columella with only one oblique fold, above which upon very close examination the faintest possible indication of a projection may be perceived.

The single columella fold has been regarded as a generic character (Watson's genus *Guivillea*). In the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 7, vol v. p. 439, pl. xi. fig. 1 (1900), I described a *Voluta uniplicata*, which it has been suggested should be called a *Guivillea*; but I find that the single fold is not even a specific character.

LXII.—*Descriptions of new Species of Snakes in the Collection of the British Museum.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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Typhlops kenti.

Snout very prominent, with obtusely angular horizontal edge and inferior nostrils. Rostral very large, extending to the level of the eyes, the portion visible from below as long as broad; nasal completely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; præocular present, narrower than the nasal or the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes distinct; supraoculars and parietals much larger than the scales on the body; four upper labials. Diameter of body 67 times in the total length; tail as long as broad, ending in a small spine. 18 scales round the body. Pale brown above, yellowish beneath.

Total length 270 mm.

A single specimen from Northern Queensland, from the collection of the late Mr. W. Saville Kent.

Allied to *T. unguirostris*, Peters, *waitii*, Blgr., and *affinis*, Blgr.

Typhlops vermis.

Snout very prominent, rounded; nostrils lateral. Rostral narrow, about one-fourth width of head; nasal completely divided, the cleft proceeding from the anterior subocular; two suboculars, separating the præocular and the ocular from the labials; eyes hidden; upper head-scales (præfrontal, frontal, interparietal, supraoculars, and parietals) much larger than the scales on the body; four upper labials. Diameter of body 35 to 45 times in the total length; tail as long as

broad, obtusely pointed, without spine. 18 scales round the body. Colourless.

Total length 120 mm.

Several specimens from Bitye, S. Cameroon, received from Mr. G. L. Bates.

Allied to *T. mirus*, Jan, from Ceylon.

Opisthotropis maxwelli.

Snout short and broad, much depressed, not projecting. Rostral twice as broad as deep, just visible from above; internasals twice as long as broad; nasal cleft extending from the nostril to the first labial; a single præfrontal; frontal large, as broad as long, a little more than twice as broad as the supraocular, much shorter than the parietals; loreal longer than deep; two præ- and two postoculars; a very elongate anterior temporal; seven upper labials, fifth entering the eye, seventh very long; anterior chin-shields a little larger than the posterior, in contact with five lower labials. Scales in 17 rows, smooth on the nape, feebly keeled on the body, rather strongly keeled towards the tail. Ventrals 151; anal divided; subcaudals 56. Blackish above, yellow beneath.

Total length 305 mm.

A single female specimen from South Fokien, China, presented by Mr. J. Preston Maxwell.

Closely allied to *O. atra*, Gthr., stated to be from West Africa (habitat very doubtful). Distinguished by the longer internasals, two præoculars instead of one, and the shorter body.

Contia africana.

Rostral much broader than deep, just visible from above; suture between the internasals a little shorter than that between the præfrontals; nasal undivided; frontal twice as long as broad, not much broader than the supraocular, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal small, longer than deep; one præocular; two postoculars; temporals 1+1; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer than the posterior and in contact with each other in front. Scales smooth, in 15 rows. Ventrals 162; anal divided; subcaudals 69. Greyish brown above, with dark brown spots, the largest of which form two alternating series on the anterior

part of the back; a broad darker brown nuchal collar, narrowly interrupted in the middle; lower parts white.

Total length 400 mm.; tail 100.

A single female specimen, collected by Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe at Erkowit, Red Sea Province of the Soudan, and presented to the British Museum by Mr. Abel Chapman.

This species, the first African representative of the genus *Contia*, is most nearly related to *C. fasciata*, Jan, from Syria, Persia, and Transcaspia.

Amblycephalus stanleyi.

Rostral slightly broader than deep, scarcely visible from above; internasals much shorter than the præfrontals, latter entering the eye; frontal hexagonal, once and a half as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal longer than deep, entering the eye; no præocular; one postocular and two suboculars, separating the eye from the upper labials; temporals 2 + 3; seven upper labials, last very long; first lower labial forming a short suture with its fellow behind the symphysial; three pairs of large chin-shields, the first longer than broad. Body compressed. Scales in 15 rows, dorsals (5 or 7 rows) feebly keeled. Ventrals 155; anal entire; subcaudals 57. Pale buff above, yellowish white beneath; a large black blotch on the upper surface of the head, from behind the internasal shields to the nape, where it divides into two longitudinal bands; more or less regular transverse series of black spots on the body, some forming interrupted cross-bands; a black streak on each side of the head, from the eye to the nuchal band; lower parts with black dots.

Total length 440 mm.; tail 95.

A single male specimen from N.W. Fokien, China, presented to the British Museum by Dr. Arthur Stanley, Curator of the Shanghai Museum.

We are now acquainted with twelve species of *Amblycephalus*, which may be distinguished by means of the following synopsis:—

I. A single shield (loreal) between the nasal and the eye.

A. One or two labials entering the eye; scales smooth.

1. Frontal at least as broad as long; symphysial in contact with an azygous chin-shield; ventrals 148-176.

Six upper labials *A. laevis*, Boie.

Seven upper labials *A. malaccanus*, Peters.

2. Frontal longer than broad; no azygous chin-shield in contact with the symphysial; ventrals 175-194.
- Symphysial in contact with a pair of chin-shields; a præocular below the loreal .. *A. monticola*, Cantor.
- First lower labial in contact with its fellow behind the symphysial; no præocular .. *A. vertebralis*, Blgr.
- B. Eye separated from the labials by suboculars; dorsal scales feebly keeled; first lower labial in contact with its fellow behind the symphysial; ventrals 155. *A. stanleyi*, Blgr.
- II. Loreal separated from the eye by one or two præoculars; eye separated from the labials by suboculars.
- A. Præfrontal entering the eye.
1. Ventrals 195-215; subcaudals 96-113; dorsal scales feebly keeled.
- Vertebral scales unicarinate; eye surrounded by four shields; a single anterior temporal *A. hamptonii*, Blgr.
- Vertebral scales bicarinate; eye surrounded by eight or nine shields; three superposed anterior temporals *A. nuchalis*, Blgr.
2. Ventrals 136-164; subcaudals 31-53.
- a. Dorsal scales feebly keeled.
- Frontal as long as the suture between the parietals *A. macularius*, Theob.*
- Frontal shorter than the suture between the parietals *A. andersonii*, Blgr.
- b. Dorsal scales smooth *A. moellendorffi*, Boettg.
- B. Præfrontal excluded from the eye.
- Dorsal scales smooth; ventrals 138 *A. margaritophorus*, Jan.
- Dorsal scales feebly keeled; ventrals 161-183. *A. carinatus*, Boie.

LXIII.—On the Spiny Mice of British East Africa, with a Description of a new Species from Magadi. By GUY DOLLMAN.

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IN the collection of mammals recently presented to the British Museum by A. Blayney Percival, Esq., is a series of Spiny Mice from Magadi, South Masailand District,

* *A. modestus*, Theob., is insufficiently characterized, and may be identical with this species.



Boulenger, George Albert. 1914. "Descriptions of new species of snakes in the collection of the British Museum." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 14, 482–485.

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