

NOTES ON SOME NOTABLE ADDITIONS TO THE BOMBAY
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S SNAKE COLLECTION.

BY

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(With a plate.)

Our Society is indebted to Mr. P. R. M. Leonard for some valuable snakes collected at Sinlum Kaba, Burma, Lat. 24° Long, 97° at an elevation of 6,000 feet :—These include the following :—

Typhlops diardi Schlegel.

One typical mature specimen.

Cylindrophis rufus (Laurenti).

One halfgrown ♀ ? Ventrals 202. Subcaudals 5 on the right, 6 on the left side ; the 2nd and 3rd entire.

Tropidonotus parallelus Boulenger.

An immature specimen 289 mm. ($11\frac{3}{8}$ inches) long. Ventrals 160. Subcaudals 83. Maxillary teeth 22 ? Syncraterian, coryphodont.

Amphiesma himalayana (Gunther).

Two small specimens, one 292 mm. ($11\frac{1}{2}$ inches) and the other 222 mm. ($8\frac{3}{4}$ inches). Both quite typical.

Trirhinopholis nuchalis Boulenger.

One specimen 298 mm. ($11\frac{3}{4}$ inches) long. The tail 28 mm. ($1\frac{1}{8}$ inches). Costals 15 in the whole body length. Ventrals 126. Anal entire. Subcaudals 21, the 2nd to 7th entire. The loreal is absent. (Possibly confluent with the posterior nasal ?) Labials 5, the 3rd only touching the eye. (The 3rd is long and appears to be a confluence of the normal 3rd and 4th.) The nostril is placed equally in both nasals, and occupies the upper three-fourths of the suture, so that the generic name is not at all appropriate. Light brown above, most scales finely bordered with black, thus producing a reticulate pattern. The belly is pale yellow (white ?) with many, scattered, very small blackish spots. The sagittal mark on the nape is conspicuous.

Zaocys nigromarginatus (Blyth).

One fine adult. Ventrals 196. Subcaudals 130.

Coluber leonardi, spec. nov.

Length 279 mm. (11 inches). Tail 41 mm. ($1\frac{5}{8}$ inches). Costals two head-lengths behind head 19, midbody 19, two head-lengths before vent 17 ; smooth, with double apical facets. Ventrals 223 ? (damaged). Anal. Divided. Subcaudals 53, divided. Rostral. Touches six shields ; the internaso-rostral sutures longer than the naso-rostral, and naso-labial, half that between the præfrontals, less than both taken together. Internasals. Two ; the suture between them less than one quarter the internaso-præfrontals. Præfrontals. Two ; the suture between them subequal to the præfronto-frontals. Frontal. Touches six shields, the supraocular sutures rather longest ; length equal to snout, two-thirds the parietals. Supraoculars. Equal to the præfrontal and internasal, rather less than the frontal, three-fifths the parietals, rather greater than the anterior temporal. Nasals. Touching 1st and 2nd supralabials. Nostril wholly in the anterior shield, and occupying the median two-fourths of the suture. Loreal. Absent. Præocular. One. Postoculars. Two. Temporals. 1+2 ; the anterior touching the 5th and 6th supralabials. Supralabials 7 ; the 3rd

and 4th touching the eye, 6th longest. *Posterior sublinguals* about three-fourths the anterior; touching the 5th and 6th *infralabials*. *Infralabials* 6; the 6th about three-fourths the length of the posterior sublinguals, and subequal to the breadth of those shields; in contact with two scales behind. Maxillary teeth about 20 (?) Syncranterian?, coryphodont.

Dorsally the prevailing tint is a pale brown. The scales are more or less finely black-edged, producing a reticulate effect. The whole back from the nape to the tail-tip is crossed with black-edged, buff bars involving three or four scales in the length of the snake, the intervals involving two or three scales. The bars are dislocated dorso-laterally, and pass to the ventral edges. The belly is buff with squarish, black, lateral, irregularly distributed spots (like some *Oligodon*). The tail is buff beneath, with a few small central blackish spots. The head is buff. A conspicuous well-defined black V, shaped like a tuning-fork, has its base on the nape behind the parietals, its arms extending to the præfrontals. A similar well-defined black postocular streak meets its fellow over the nape. There is a black subocular spot on the 3rd and 4th supralabials, and another similar one on the 6th and 7th passes below the gape. There is a black spot at the meeting of the mental, and 1st *infralabials*, and another on the confines of the 4th and 5th *infralabials*.

I associate Mr. Leonard's name with the species, which appears to me very close to *C. porphyraceus* Cantor.

Oligodon herberti Boulenger.

A very fine example of this rare snake, described by Mr. Boulenger in 1905 has been received, the first representative in our collection, and only the third known. It measured 400 mm. (1 foot, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches). The costals are 13 in the whole body length. Ventrals 208. Anal divided. Subcaudals 38. The absence of internasals is a notable feature of this species, and it would appear that they have been absorbed into the anterior nasals, for these shields extend remarkably on to the top of the snout. The light vertebral stripe in this specimen is regularly constricted bilaterally at intervals, to form a chain of spindle-shaped beads. The maxillary teeth are dubiously 7 in number. These are syncranterian and strongly coryphodont as in other members of the genus. There is an edentulous space anterior to the teeth. Mr. Leonard is to be congratulated on securing so many interesting rarities.



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