

[From the ANNALS AND MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY for
June 1868.]

SIXTH ACCOUNT
OF
NEW SPECIES OF SNAKES
IN
THE COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.
BY
ALBERT GÜNTHER, M.A., M.D., PH.D., F.R.S.



[Plates XVII., XVIII. XIX.]

THE following species of Ophidians have been added to the Collection of the British Museum since the publication of the last paper on the same subject in this Journal (July 1866, xviii. pp. 24–29). The total number of species in that collection amounts now to 863, and that of the typical specimens to 330. In the following lists some of the species are marked with an asterisk (*); of these, as well as of some others, I have added descriptions or shorter notices.

I. *List of Species which were formerly desiderata.*

- **Silybura grandis*, *Bedd.* Anamallay Forest. Capt. Beddome.
- *rubromaculata*, *Bedd.* Anamallay Forest. Capt. Beddome.
- **Platyplectrurus trilineatus*, *Bedd.* Anamallay Forest. Capt. Beddome.
- Elapomorphus acanthias*, *Kröyer.* Sierra Leone. J. C. Salmon, Esq.
- Liophis (Diadophis) Arnyi*, *Kennicott.* City of Mexico. Hr. Doorman.
- Tropidonotus nigrocinctus*, *Blyth.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- Ahetulla punctata*, *Ptrs.* Zanzibar. Dr. Kirk †.
- * — *dorsalis*, *Bocage.* Benguella. Dr. B. du Bocage.
- **Tragops javanicus*, *Steindachner.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- Pareas margaritophorus*, *Jan.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- **Boodon variegatus*, *Bocage.* Benguella. Dr. B. du Bocage and Mr. Monteiro.
- Hoplocephalus fuscus*, *Steindachner.* Van Diemen's Land. G. Krefft, Esq.
- Elaps gastrodellus*, *Dum. & Bibr.* Chyavetas. Mr. Bartlett.

II. *List of the new Species procured and described since July 1866.*

- **Xenocalamus bicolor*, *Gthr.* Zambeze. Museum of Cape Town.
- **Geophis latifrons*, *Gthr.* Pebas. Mr. Bates.
- * — *bicolor*, *Gthr.* City of Mexico. Hr. Doorman.
- **Simotes amabilis*, *Gthr.* Arrakan Hills. Mr. Theobald.
- * — *cruentatus*, *Theobald.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- * — *Theobaldi*, *Gthr.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- **Ablabes bistrigatus*, *Gthr.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- **Cyclophis nebulosus*, *Gthr.* Nagasaki. Mr. Whitely.

† Besides the species mentioned in these lists, the following have been sent by Dr. Kirk from Zanzibar:—*Prosymna meleagris*, *Uriechis capensis* (Smith), *Psammophis sibilans* in three varieties, *Boodon lineatus*, *Clotho arietans*, *Dasyplis scabra*.

- *Dromicus vipereus*, *Gthr.* Pebas. Mr. Hauxwell.
- — *laureatus*, *Gthr.* City of Mexico. Hr. Doorman.
- *Herpetodryas occipitalis*, *Gthr.* Pebas. Mr. Hauxwell.
- *Tropidonotus Swinhonis*, *Gthr.* Formosa. Mr. Swinhoe.
- *Hydrops callostictus*, *Gthr.* Upper Amazons. Mr. Bartlett.
- *Mimophis madagascariensis*, *Gthr.* Madagascar. Rev. W. Ellis.
- *Rhagerrihis unguiculata*, *Gthr.* Zanzibar. Dr. Kirk.
- — *tritæniata*, *Gthr.* East Africa. Mr. Warwick.
- *Ahætulla Kirkii*, *Gthr.* Zanzibar. Dr. Kirk.
- *Dendrophis calligaster*, *Gthr.* Cape York. Purchased.
- *Leptodira nigrofasciata*, *Gthr.* Nicaragua. Dr. Seemann.
- *Dipsas ochraceus*, *Theobald.* Pegu. Mr. Theobald.
- *Pythonodipsas carinata*, *Gthr.* Zambeze. Museum of Cape Town.
- *Lycophidium acutirostre*, *Gthr.* Zanzibar. Dr. Kirk.
- *Callophis japonicus*, *Gthr.* Nagasaki. Mr. Whitely.
- *Elaps Batesii*, *Gthr.* Pebas. Mr. Hauxwell.
- *Atractaspis rostrata*, *Gthr.* Zanzibar. Dr. Kirk.

Plectrurus trilineatus (Bedd.).

This is another very interesting addition made by Capt. Beddome to the family of *Uropeltidae*. It differs from *Plectrurus* proper, and, like *Melanophidium*, approaches the *Calamaridae*. The head is remarkably flattened, obtusely rounded in front; no mental groove; tail comparatively long, with a distinct double series of subcaudals, terminating in a horny shield, the edge of which is horizontal, and not vertical as in *Plectrurus*; the shield is one-, and not two-pointed. I propose the generic name *Platyplectrurus* for it.

Silybura grandis.

Rhinophis grandis, Beddome.

This snake is more closely allied to *Silybura ocellata* than to *Rhinophis pulneyensis*, to which it has been compared by its discoverer. However, these species show that the distinction between *Silybura* and *Rhinophis* is scarcely generic, and that they may be united before long.

XENOCALAMUS (g. n. Calamar.).

Body cylindrical, elongate; tail short; head long, depressed, narrower than the neck. Eye extremely small, with round pupil; rostral large, conically produced, the mouth being quite at the lower side of the head; one pair of frontals; vertical enormous; occipitals small; nostril between two shields; loreal none; scales smooth, without apical groove, in seventeen series; anal and subcaudals paired. Maxillary teeth few in number, smooth; palate without teeth.

Gerarda bicolor (Gray).

This snake is not from the West Indies, but from Pegu, where specimens were collected by Mr. Theobald.

Hydrops Martii (Wagl.).

Hygina fasciata, Gray.

Scales constantly in fifteen series.

Hydrops callostictus. Pl. XVII. fig. B.

Scales in seventeen rows. Anterior frontal nearly twice as broad as long; occipitals as long as the vertical and frontals together; two postoculars; eight upper labials, the fourth entering the orbit; the second upper labial in contact with the posterior frontal; loreal none; temporals 1+1. There are four lower labials, in contact with the front chin-shields. Ventrals 168; anal bifid; subcaudals 90. The upperside of the head and of the back reddish olive. Sides and belly of a lighter colour, approaching to white; body and tail encircled by numerous black rings, each about two scales broad and edged in front and behind by pearl-coloured dots; the bands are frequently broken on the median line of the back and belly. Snout black, with a yellow band across the præfrontal; temple black, separated from the first black ring by a yellowish-white cross band.

One specimen, 11 inches long, was found by Mr. Bartlett at Chyavctas (Upper Amazons).

MIMOPHIS (g. n. Psammophid.).

Body and tail moderately slender, scarcely compressed; form of the head as in *Psammophis*, but with the loreal region less distinctly grooved; rostral shield not enlarged; eye of moderate size, with round pupil; nostril small, placed in a single shield, behind which is another small shield; loreal none, replaced by the posterior frontal, which is bent downwards on the sides; scales smooth, with one apical groove, in seventeen rows, those of the vertebral series not enlarged; ventrals not keeled; anal and subcaudals bifid; the third or fourth maxillary tooth enlarged; posterior maxillary tooth grooved; front teeth of the lower jaw larger than the posterior.

This genus bears a similar relation to *Psammophis* as *Tropidococcyx* to *Tragops*, and illustrates in some measure the affinity between the *Dryophidæ* and *Psammophidæ*.

Mimophis madagascariensis. Pl. XVIII.

In habit very similar to *Psammophis sibilans*. Snout

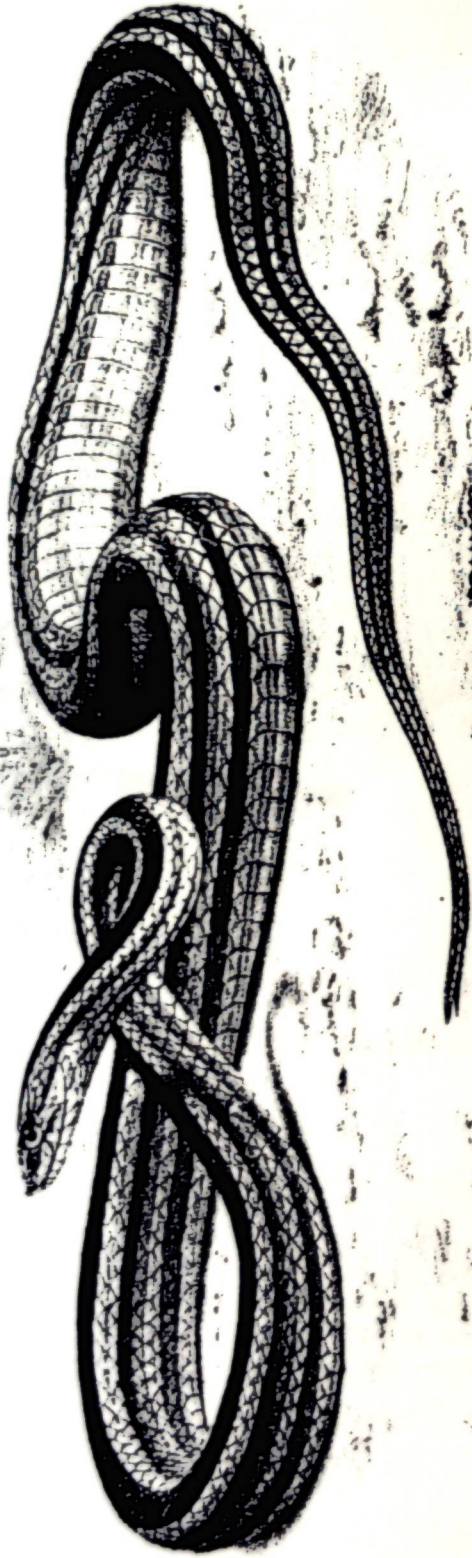
slightly pointed, tetral, the canthus rostralis being distinct; loreal region scarcely concave; eye of moderate size. Rostral shield not quite so high as broad, reaching to the upper surface of the head; anterior frontals small, triangular, pointed in front, as long as broad; posterior frontals rather longer than anterior, bent downwards on the sides, and forming a broad suture with the second upper labial. Vertical elongate bell-shaped, as long as the occipitals, which are rounded behind. The nasal shield proper is trapezoid and large, pierced by the small nostril in its upper posterior portion. A smaller quadrangular shield, which is higher than long, is intercalated between the nasal and posterior frontal, and may be considered to be a posterior nasal; there is no loreal. One præocular, concave before the eye, and bent upwards on the upper side of the head, without reaching the vertical. Two postoculars; eight upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit; temporals small, rather irregular, 2+3. The anterior chin-shields are shorter than the posterior, and in contact with four labials. Ventrals 151, 354; subcaudals 62-170.

Brownish yellow; a broad blackish-brown band, which is four scales broad in the middle of the body, runs from the upper side of the head, along the back, to the tip of the tail. Another, narrower and less intensely coloured stripe runs from the nostril, through the eye, along the meeting edges of the third and fourth outer series of scales; a third, of about the same width, but of a brighter colour, along the meeting edges of the two outer series of scales: all these bands have more or less distinct darker edges. Lower side yellowish, with four faint purplish longitudinal bands.

Three specimens of this beautiful snake were presented by the Rev. W. Ellis to the British Museum. The largest is 22 inches long, head $7\frac{1}{4}$ lines, tail 5 inches. They were collected in Madagascar.

Rhagerrhis unguiculata. Pl. XIX. figs. G.

Scales short, rounded, without apical groove, in seventeen series; ventrals 176; anal bifid; subcaudals 100. Body moderately slender; head short, high, with the upper profile convex, terminating in a broad rostral shield, which is bent downwards and provided with a sharp edge like a nail; anterior frontals much broader than long; posterior frontals not twice as large as anterior, broader than long. Vertical six-sided, with the anterior and posterior angles equally obtuse, and as broad behind as in front; occipitals short, shorter than the vertical, rounded behind. Nostril in a single shield, the



W West imp

Mimophis madagascariensis.