



Description of new Species of Reptiles from Eastern Africa.

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THE British Museum has recently received some small consignments of reptiles from various parts of Eastern Africa, chiefly through the kindness of Dr. Kirk and Mr. Bewsher. The following very interesting species were recognized as undescribed.

GEOCALAMUS, g. n. Amphisbæn.

Allied to *Baikia*. Head very short, with compressed conical snout. Rostral large; two large frontalia form a suture together behind the rostral; vertical small, square, sometimes confluent with the frontals; two occipitals with small accessory scutes on the sides and behind. Nasal very small, above the first labial; ocular above the second and third labials. Three upper labials. Mentale square, of moderate size; three lower labials; gular scutes small, rather numerous. Sternal scutes similar to those of the body, oblong, quadrangular, small. Præanal shields two, triangular; præanal pores four. Lateral line distinct.

Geocalamus modestus.



One verticellus consists of 38 scutes, of which 17 are above, and 21 below the lateral lines. Upper parts greyish, lower white.

Three specimens were obtained by a missionary stationed at Mpwapwa, which is about 200 miles inland of the coast opposite Zanzibar. The longest is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

Chamæsaura miodactyla.



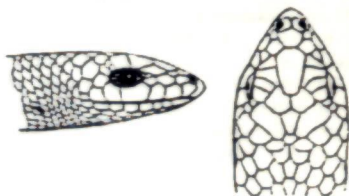
Fore limb with distinct upper and lower arm, and two or three claws, nearly reaching to the ear-opening when laid forwards; hind limb (see fig.) rudimentary, but well formed, with five clawed toes unequal in length, and with three large femoral pores. Scales round the body in 28 longitudinal series. Coloration as in *C. anguina* and *C. macrolepis*.

An adult specimen, discovered in the Peri-Bush by H. Trevelyan, Esq.

SEPACONTIAS, g. n.

This new genus cannot be referred either to the Scincidæ or Sepidæ, if these families be maintained with the definitions given by Gray. It has also affinity to *Acontias*, the large rostral shield of this genus being assumed here to be divided into three pieces. The rostral shield is rather large, depressed, and bordered behind by two shields (nasals), which form a suture together behind the rostral, and each of which is pierced by a large round open nostril directed upwards, and with a short slit to the hind margin of the nasal. In other respects the scutellation of the head and the formation of the body is that of a *Gongylus*. Scales smooth; ear-opening very narrow; eyelids scaly; limbs feeble.

Sepacontias modestus.



The nasals separate the rostral shield from the frontal, which is broader than long; vertical large, bell-shaped, angular

behind, and not in contact with the central occipital; two pairs of occipitals, of which the posterior is the larger; four superciliaries; postnasal and loreal nearly of the same size; six upper labials, of which the fourth is the largest, situated below the eye. Front lower labial rather narrow, followed by a single mentale, which is broader than long; six lower labials.

Body surrounded by 26 longitudinal series of scales; there are 73 transverse series of scales between the mentale and the vent; the body, therefore, is rather slender. Four preanal scales, of nearly the same size.

Fore limbs very small, reaching the ear-opening when laid forward; toes very short, the third a little longer than the fourth. The hind limb and toes very short, the second and fifth toes equal in length, the fourth a quarter longer than the third. Upper parts uniform dark olive, lower whitish; sides and the lower part of the tail punctulated with brown.

	millim.
Distance of the snout from the eye	4½
" " ear-opening	11
" " fore limb.....	20
" " vent.....	83
Length of fore limb	9½
" third front toe	2½
" hind limb	16
" fourth hind toe.....	5

In one specimen, in which the tail is preserved, this member is about as long as the rest of the body.

Three specimens were obtained at Mpwapwa.

Gongylus Johanna. * (= *Sesvisina*)

Rostral shield with a straight upper margin; supranasals in contact with each other; frontal broad, single, with a straight posterior margin; vertical large, bell-shaped, narrower in front than behind, with a shallow notch in the middle of its hind margin, the small central occipital fitting into the notch; one pair of occipitals. Nostrils in a notch of the rostral shield; postnasal only one fifth the size of loreal. Six upper labials, the fourth not being larger than the third, and situated below the eye. Anterior lower labial rather narrow, followed by a single mentale, which is rather broader than long; seven lower labials.

Eyelids scaly; ear-opening small, round.

Body surrounded by 33 longitudinal series of scales. There are from 97 to 101 transverse series of scales between the mentale and the vent; the body, therefore, is very slender.

Four preanal scales, the two central ones being the largest.

Fore limbs very small, reaching to the ear-opening when laid forward. Toes very short, the third and fourth equal in length. The hind limb and toes very short, the second and fifth toes equal in length, the fourth one fifth longer than the third. Upper parts brownish, finely mottled with darker; lower parts whitish.

	millim.	millim.
Distance of the snout from the eye	5	4
" " ear-opening ..	14	10
" " fore limb	26	19
" " vent	118	70
Length of the tail	(broken)	107
" fore limb	11	8½
" third front toe	2½	1½
" hind limb	21	13
" fourth hind toe	5½	4

The British Museum has received three specimens of this species from the Comoro Islands—a smaller one through Dr. Kirk, and two larger ones through Mr. Bewsher, who states that they were obtained on the Paddy sugar estate in Johanna, under stones, at an altitude of 1000 feet above the sea.

Chamaeleon cephalolepis.



This species is allied to *C. tigris* from the Seychelles; but the scales on the head, which in the latter species are minute, are much larger and scute-like in the present new species. The snout is not produced, but terminates in two pairs of pointed tubercles, which are the continuation of the series of tubercles with which the canthus rostralis is furnished. The canthus rostralis passes uninterruptedly into the superciliary ridge, which is joined by a horizontal forward prolongation of the occipital ridge. A rather prominent crest runs along the middle of the occipital region. Occiput narrow, but rounded behind, without spine and without lateral flap. Scales of the body smooth, small, granular, equal. Dorsal crest very low, showing some short isolated spines anteriorly only. The gular and ventral crest is rather more distinct, but likewise very low. Coloration without distinct markings.

A single adult male from the Comoro Islands, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, of which the tail takes $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Rhampholeon Kerstenii.

Chamaeleo Kerstenii, Peters in Von der Decken's Reisen, iii. p. 12, Taf. 1. fig. 1.



This is a second species of the genus *Rhampholeon*, each claw being provided with the characteristic accessory sharp denticle; but the spine which vertically projects from the flexor side of the toes in *R. spectrum* is absent in the present species.

One specimen from Mpwapwa is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the tail measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Dipsas betsileana. - *Chamaeleo betsileana* Sig.

Scales in 23 series, those of the vertebral series scarcely enlarged. Head very short and broad; eye very large. The loreal enters the orbit below the single præorbital; two postorbitals; seven upper labials. Black, with about thirty-four narrow yellow cross bands on the trunk; tail similarly coloured. Snout with an irregular yellow band across the frontals.

One specimen, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, from S.E. Betsileo, Madagascar.