



*Tenth Contribution to the Knowledge of the Fauna of
Madagascar* *. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

[Plate VI.]

A SMALL collection made by the Rev. James Wills in the forest-district east of Imerina contained a few new or interesting species.

Among the Mammalia there is a specimen of a very peculiarly coloured species of *Hemicentetes*.

Hemicentetes nigrofuscus.

This species agrees with *Hemicentetes semispinosus* in size,

* 9. "Ninth Contribution to the Knowledge of the Fauna of Madagascar," Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1882, vol. ix. p. 202.

the proportions of the body, and the distribution of the ornamental markings; but what is yellow or whitish in *H. semispinosus* is of a bright light chestnut-colour in this species, and the middle of the chest and abdomen is black.

In the only specimen available at present the fur is very thin and consists on the side of the abdomen of thin woolly hairs, sparsely mixed with very slender bristles. The crest across the nape is formed by less numerous spines, which, like all the spines on the back, are of a deep orange colour. Thinner black bristles are mixed with the hair as in the allied species*.

The dentition is that of an adult animal and formed by the permanent teeth. On comparing it with a specimen of *H. semispinosus* of the same size, no great difference can be observed as to the general shape and relative position of the teeth. But the molars are of conspicuously larger size and are less broad transversely, with the exception of the hindmost (fourth) molar, which is rudimentary. The distance of the canine from the front incisor is 4 millim., that between the canine and second præmolar 7 millim.

Only one specimen was obtained; the skin is 140 millim. long, and the head measures 40 millim. to the front margin of the ear.

The Reptiles consist of specimens of *Sepsina gastrosticta*, O'Sh.; *Chamaeleon lateralis*, Gray; *Chamaeleon brevicornis*, Gthr.; *Chamaeleon globifer*, Gthr.; *Chamaeleon nasutus*, Gray; and *Chamaeleon Willsii*, sp. n. Among the Snakes specimens of *Ptyas infrasignatus*, Gthr. (1882), are of special interest, inasmuch as they prove that *Dromicus Stumpffi*, Böttg. (1881), and *Dromicus Baroni*, Blgr. (1887), are individual variations or modifications of age of the same species †. *Dipsas colubrina* is represented in this collection and seems to be generally distributed.

A species of *Liophis* I believe to be undescribed, and, finally, *Mimophis madagascariensis*, Gthr., occurs also in this district.

* I may here mention that *Hemicentetes nigriceps*, Günth. (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., Aug. 1875), has since been renamed by Jentink *Hemicentetes variegatus*, var. *Buffoni* ('Notes from the Leyden Museum,' 1879, p. 150). I am afraid that Dr. Jentink will be still less inclined to acknowledge the form now described as a distinct species.

† *Dromicus madagascariensis*, Gthr., proves to be very distinct, although it has a similar coloration. Its head is much shorter and broader, the eye smaller, and in all specimens known the abdomen is unspotted, as in some of *Ptyas infrasignatus*.

Chamaeleon Willsii. (Pl. VI.)

This species is closely allied to *Chamaeleon minor* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1879, vol. iv. p. 246), but differs by its broader head, which is quite flat between the orbits in the female, and very slightly concave in the male, whilst in *Chamaeleon minor* the upperside of the head is deeply concave in both sexes. Snout of the adult male produced into two flat compressed horns, divergent in front and covered with large scutes, of which one in the middle of the upper edge projects like a prong; the horns are much less approximate at the base than in *Chamaeleon minor*; they are, as usual, absent in the female. Occipital region with a rounded margin behind, without any prominent parietal crest, which in *Chamaeleon minor* is rather conspicuous. No lateral occipital flaps. A dorsal crest is present in the male only, and consists of a few conical tubercles which occupy the nape of the neck. No gular or ventral median series of tubercles. Head covered with small, flat, irregular scutes; scutes of the body uniform, flat, scarcely smaller than those of the head, but much larger than in *Chamaeleon minor*. Heel without spur or prominence.

Dark greenish or yellowish, with a white streak along the median line of the throat and abdomen; a narrow yellow ring round the middle of the foot; a similar marking is indicated by one or two small spots on the hand; female with an interrupted yellow line along the hinder side of the hind limb and continued for a short distance on each side of the tail.

Four specimens were collected, two adult males and two females. The larger of the males is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the tail measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The fully adult female is smaller, measuring only $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the tail takes one half.

Liophis Imerina.

Scales in nineteen series. Head short, snout rather pointed; eye small, with round pupil. Rostral shield protruding, extending on to the upper surface of the head; frontals small, the anterior scarcely one half the size of the posterior; vertical longer than broad; occipitals as long as vertical and postfrontals together. Loreal short; one præocular, not reaching to the upper surface of the head; two postoculars. Eight upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Temporals 1 + 2 + 3, the foremost in contact with the lower postocular only. Three lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields.

Ventrals 146; anal divided; subcaudals $28 + x$, possibly 40. Posterior maxillary tooth strong and separated from the preceding by an interspace.

Upper parts brown, with four rather indistinct blackish lines, the outer along the fourth and the inner along the seventh series of scales; upper labials yellowish, marbled with blackish like the throat; lower parts greyish, nearly black.

The length of the single specimen is 18 inches, of which the somewhat mutilated tail measures two.

This species seems to be allied to *Liophis quinquelineatus* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1881, vol. vii. p. 359), of which the type has been lost. It differs, however, by its somewhat larger eye, fewer series of scales, and different coloration of the head.



Western Bros. lith.

CHAMELEON WILLSI.