

V

REPTILIA ET AMPHIBIA

BY

H. W. PARKER (London)

9th CRUISE

As a foreign collaborator of the Royal Belgian Museum of Natural History the author has been privileged to study the material recently collected during the cruise of the *Mercator*. It is not unusual to find that collections of this nature, obtained for the most part in the neighbourhood of the larger ports and in localities often visited, are composed of large series of the commoner species. But owing to the presence of a trained biologist, Dr. W. ADAM, on board the *Mercator* the present collection was made with discrimination and a number of specimens were obtained which are of particular interest on account of the light they throw on taxonomic or zoogeographical problems. The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Dr. ADAM for much information concerning the habitats of the specimens and his gratitude to Dr. VAN STRAËLEN for his courtesy and kindness in enabling him to visit the Museum and study these collections.

I. — NEOTROPICAL COLLECTIONS

REPTILIA

SERPENTES

Helicops trivittatus (GRAY, 1849)

♂. Sc. 21. V. 121. C. 55+n. Para, on a floating tree.

Leimadophis typhlus (LINN., 1758)

♀. Sc. 19. V. 149. C. 45+1. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

***Liophis brevirostris* (PETERS, 1863)**

juv. Sc. 17. V. 151. C. 46+1. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

The author (1935, p. 521) has recently surveyed the composite *Liophis undulatus* auctorum and shown that 3 or possibly 4 distinct species occur in the region of the Guianas and northeastern Brazil. At that time the true *Liophis brevirostris* was known only from the upper Amazon, with a single record from French Guiana. The present example extends the known range to include the lower Amazon valley and so removes some apparent discontinuity.

***Thamnodynastes pallidus pallidus* (LINN., 1758)**

juv. Sc. 17. V. 150. C. ? Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

The author (1935, p. 524) has given reasons for preferring the use of the generic name *Thamnodynastes* to that of *Dryophylax* which was advocated by MÜLLER (1927, p. 298). Amaral (1936, p. 137), however, continues to use *Dryophylax* but without advancing any reasons in support of his action.

SAURIA***Anolis roquet roquet* (LACÉPÈDE, 1758)**

16 specimens from the Cul-de-sac-marin, Fort-de-France, and between Fort-de-France and Schoelcher, Martinique.

***Cnemidophorus lemniscatus nigricolor* PETERS, 1873**

2 ♀ ♀. Tortugilla Island, N. Venezuela.

It is doubtful whether the use of the subspecific name *nigricolor* is justified for these lizards. They resemble others from the neighbouring island of Margarita whose population was considered by BURT (1931, p. 42) to be intermediate between *nigricolor* and typical *lemniscatus*; but their relationships are probably rather with the latter than the former. Without a larger series of specimens, however, it seems inadvisable to depart from current practice.

***Ameiva ameiva ameiva* (LINN., 1758)**

♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

♂ ♀. Rio Purus, between Manaus and Flores.

TESTUDINES***Testudo tabulata* WALBAUM, 1782**

juv. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

***Podocnemis unifilis* TROSCHER, 1848**

4 juvs. Obidos.

EMYDOSAURIA

Caiman niger SPIX, 1825

1 Skull, 1 skin. Obidos.

Caiman sclerops (SCHNEIDER, 1801)

juv. Obidos.

AMPHIBIA

SALIENTIA

Dendrobates trivittatus (SPIX, 1824)

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

Bufo crucifer WIED, 1821

♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

Leptodactylus marmoratus (STEINDACHNER, 1867)

♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

Leptodactylus ocellatus (LINN., 1758)

♀, juv. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

Eleutherodactylus martinicensis (TSCHUDI, 1838)

♀. Fort-de-France, Martinique.

Pseudis limellum (COPE, 1862)

♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

The author (1935, p. 510) stated that this species was confined to the Paraguay-La Plata river system, but since then MÜLLER and HELLMICH (1936, pp. 26 and 118) have recorded examples from Marajo Island. The present specimen is an undoubted, rough-skinned *limellum* also, and so it appears that the species has a much wider range, probably over the whole Amazon basin as well.

Hyla crepitans WIED, 1821

♂, 2 ♀♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

Hyla rubra DAUDIN, 1803

♂, ♀. Sta. Julia, Grão Para.

CAUDATA

? *Oedipus altamazonicus* COPE, 1874*Eladinea estheri* MIRANDA RIBEIRO, 1937, O Campo, March 1937, p. 42.

1 immature example. Utinga Forest, Para.

This specimen, unfortunately rather shrivelled, is a topotype of the recently

described *Eladinea estheri* Mir. Ribeiro, based on embryonic and newly-hatched specimens only. It has been compared with specimens determined as *Oedipus altamazonicus* by DUNN (1926, p. 440) and found to agree closely with those from the Rio Pacaya, a locality in the lowlands of Peru less than a hundred miles from Nauta, the type locality of *altamazonicus*. Although no salamanders have previously been recorded from Brazil their occurrence on the upper reaches of the Amazon is well established and it is well within the bounds of possibility for the same species to range throughout the lowland river basin. The material available is too scanty to determine definitely whether *estheri* and *altamazonicus* are really conspecific, though this seems probable; but they are almost certainly congeneric and this at once raises the question of the status of *Eladinea* in regard to *Oedipus*. MIRANDA RIBEIRO considered his salamanders to be generically distinct on account of their oviparous habit, *Oedipus* being generally regarded as ovoviviparous; but the breeding habits of only one or two species (out of more than thirty) are at

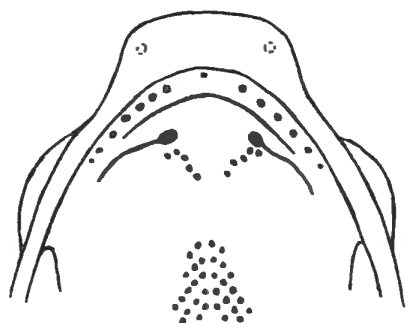


FIG. 1.

Dentition of *Oedipus altamazonicus* COPE
from Pacaya River, Eastern Peru.

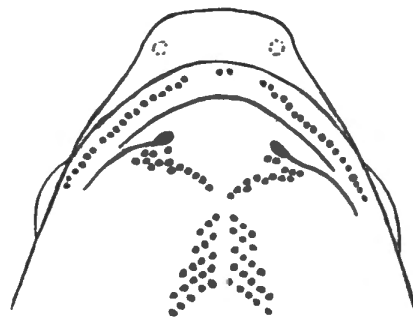


FIG. 2.

Dentition of *Oedipus peruvianus* (BOUL.).
Type, from Moyobamba, Peru.

present known, so that too much stress cannot be laid on this difference, and further information must be available before the breaking up of *Oedipus* is justified.

Another point of interest arises as a result of the reexamination of *O. altamazonicus* and that concerns the status of *O. peruvianus* (Boulenger) which DUNN believes to be a synonym of Cope's species. The Rio Pacaya specimens mentioned above are believed on geographical grounds (since the type is lost) to be correctly determined and are found to differ from the type of *O. peruvianus*, an Andean species collected at Moyobamba, in colour and dentition. In *altamazonicus*, as reported by DUNN, the vomerine teeth are in short series, 5 to 9 in each, beginning behind the level of the inner or outer border of the choana, running obliquely backwards and inwards and well separated from the large median patch of parasphenoid teeth (fig. 1); there are only 6-10 maxillary teeth on each side. In the type of *peruvianus*, however, teeth are more numerous and

better developed; the vomers are 14 to 15 in each series in two rows laterally where they extend outwards beyond the choanae, and are only narrowly separated from the parasphenoids, which are divided longitudinally into two groups (fig. 2). These differences are sufficiently pronounced to make it seem probable that the two are specifically distinct, *altamazonicus* with its reduced dentition showing an approach to species such as *colonneus* and *rufescens* in which the maxillary teeth are completely wanting.

II. — ETHIOPIAN COLLECTIONS

REPTILIA

SAURIA

Agama insularis CHABANAUD, 1918

2 ♂♂, ♀. Kassa, Los Islands, French Guinea.

♂, 2 juvs. Roumé, Los Islands, French Guinea.

The last-mentioned 3 specimens are topotypes of this species which appears to be confined to the Los Islands, and is most closely allied to *Agama boulen-geri* Lataste, of upper Senegal. The two are very similar, but *insularis* may be distinguished by its more strongly carinate scales, especially on the occiput and lower surfaces of the tail, larger nasal, separated from the rostral by a single elongate scale, larger labials (8-9 vice 11), and colour. The male of *insularis*, in alcohol, is brownish black above, finely speckled with lighter, especially on the vertebral region; the lower surfaces of the head, chest and abdomen are blackish-grey, except the middle of the gular region which is jet black.

Acanthodactylus scutellatus dumerili (MILNE EDWARDS, 1829)

♂. On the beach between Dakar and Hann.

Amphisbaena leonina MÜLLER, 1885

1 Kassa, Los Islands, French Guinea.

This species has hitherto only been recorded twice. The original specimen, on which the specific name was founded, was collected on Tumbo Island, Sierra Leone and a second specimen from the Rio Pongo, Portuguese Guinea, in the Hamburg Museum, is mentioned by Loveridge in his forthcoming Revision of the African Lizards of the family *Amphisbaenidae* which the author has been privileged to read in manuscript. The present example agrees with these in its head-scales and in the possession of 24 segments in an annulus at mid-body, but has a somewhat lower number of annuli (227 vice 240) and seven, instead of 3-6,

preanal pores. Another feature not mentioned in the previous descriptions, but very noticeable in the Kassa specimen, is the presence of a mid-dorsal furrow comparable in appearance with the lateral lines.

Mabuya blandingi (HALLOWELL, 1844)

Euprepes blandingi HALLOWELL, 1844, Proc. Acad. Philad., 2, 3, p. 58.

Euprepis raddoni GRAV, 1845, Cat. Lizards Brit. Mus., p. 112.

juv. Kassa, Los Islands, French Guinea.

By a slip BOULENGER (1887, Cat. Lizards Brit. Mus., 3, p. 165) misquoted the date of HALLOWELL's paper as 1845 and so fell into the error of believing the names *blandingi* and *raddoni* to be of the same date; he selected *raddoni* for the species and this choice has been universally accepted. Unfortunately, however, the name *blandingi* appears to have undoubted priority by nearly a year and so must be used. The species has already been recorded from the Los Islands (CHABANAUD, 1918, p. 164).

AMPHIBIA

SALIENTIA

Bufo regularis REUSS, 1823

♀. Between Dakar and Hann.

♂ ♀. Kassa, Los Islands, French Guinea.

REFERENCES

AMARAL, 1936, Mem. Inst. Butantan, 10, pp. 87-162 et I-XIX.

BURT, 1931, U. S. Mus., Bull. 154.

CHABANAUD, 1918, Bull. Mus. Paris, 3, pp. 160-166.

DUNN, 1926, Salamanders of the family *Plethodontidae* (Smith Coll., Northampton, Mass.).

MÜLLER, 1927, Abh. Senck. Natfor. Ges., 40, pp. 259-304.

MÜLLER und HELLMICH, 1936, Wiss. Ergeb. Deutsch. Gran Chaco-Exp., Amp. und Rept., 1 (Stuttgart).

PARKER 1935, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pp. 505-530.

Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History).
