

four to six bars. The lower plumage is whitish with broken brown cross bars or spots. The legs are feathered down to the feet, and the toes covered with long bristles on the upper side. This owlet has no so called "ears", and must not be confused with the Scops Owl, which is a quiet little owl and only utters a monotonous "toop" at regular intervals of about ten seconds.

E. G. HERBERT.

January, 1914.

No. IX. DISTRIBUTION OF *ANCISTRODON RHODOSTROMA*,
THE MALAYAN VIPER, IN SIAM.

The only record of this snake in Siam up to the present has been from the island of Puket. North of this latitude it had not been known at all. Recent collections have shown, however, that it has a much wider distribution. It is not uncommon at Bangtaphan, near the sea coast, and Mr. P. A. R. Barron has found it at Nong Kai Ploi, just E. of Srimaharicha, elevation 150 metres, where it appears to be equally plentiful. One was recently caught at Lopburi, and Dr. Sprater procured last year a very young specimen at Kumpawapi, 250 km. N. of Korat, Lat. $17^{\circ} 10' N.$, Long. $102^{\circ} 50' E.$ It will thus be seen to have a wide distribution in this country, and its northern range of habitat greatly increased.

Speaking of its poison, Boulenger says, "This snake was long known from Java only, where it is regarded as one of the most dangerous poisonous snakes, cases being known of men dying five minutes after being bitten. In the neighbourhood of Biserat and Kuala Jalar (Malay States) where it was discovered by Messrs Ammandale and Robinson, the natives do not believe its bite to be fatal." The people of Bangtaphan and Nong Kai Ploi, who appear to know this snake quite well, also agree that its bite is not particularly dangerous, and as natives on the subject of snake-bite are apt to exaggerate rather than otherwise, one is inclined to accept these statements as correct.

I have recently acquired 4 living specimens. They are extremely sluggish creatures, remaining motionless throughout the entire day, usually coiled up in a circle with the head projecting from the middle, and the body comfortably bedded down into the sand of their cage. Even a stick will hardly rouse them, and when taken up they move off in a leisurely fashion. At night they become more active and wander about. I have never yet heard them hiss, but when thoroughly excited will "rattle" the tip of the tail at great speed. They feed freely upon mice, frogs and toads.

Details of 7 specimens as follows:—

	Locality.	Total length in mm.	Tail.	COSTALS			Ventrals.	Subcaudals.	Upper labials.
				2 heads-lengths behind head.	Mid-body.	2 heads-lengths before vent.			
1.	Bangtaphan	315	30	23.	21.	17.	160	38	7 and 7
2.	„	420	45	23.	21.	17.	160	37	7 and 8
3.	„	175	20	23.	21.	17.	159	37	8 and 8
4.	„	390	—	21.	21.	17.	150	48	7 and 8
5.	Nong Kai Ploi	790	90	22.	21.	17.	154	40	7 and 8
6.	„	248	28	21.	21.	19.	160	35	7 and 7
7.	Kumpawapi	240	25	21.	21.	17.	160	37	7 and 8

Their markings show but little variation. Above, they are light or dark brown in color, with a faint pinkish tinge, and mottled and clouded in varying degrees with darker. The vertebral line, and the large triangular spots on either side of it, so characteristic of this snake are, in the majority, jet black (instead of dark brown) and have, when the snake has just cast its skin, a handsome, velvet-like appearance.

At Bangtaphan this snake is known as “ngu maaw sao,” and at Nong Kai Ploi as “ngu kãbã.” The former title may, however, be given to any snake with large prominent spots upon the body.

MALCOLM SMITH.

January 31, 1914.

No X.—LARGE BANDED KRAIT.

An unusually large specimen of the Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) was recently killed in the compound of the Bangkok Nursing Home. It was trodden upon by the house coolie when going out to fetch water after dark, and was promptly dispatched by the remainder of the staff, who came to his assistance. The enlarged tip of the tail was unfortunately missing, but allowing 20 mm. for this, it measured, without stretching, 2,020 mm. (6 ft. 7½ in.) in total length, the tail