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DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW REPTILES
FROM SIAM.

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WITH NOTES.

BY MALCOLM SMITH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

I am indebted to Dr. Malcolm Smith for examples of the following species of Reptiles which he suspected to be new to Science, and which he has requested me to describe.

LYGOSOMA ANGUINOIDES.*

Section *Lygosoma*. Limbless. Snout short, rounded, projecting feebly beyond the mouth. Nostril pierced in the anterior part of a large nasal, which is narrowly separated from its fellow: rostral produced between the nasals: frontonasal nearly twice as broad as long, forming a narrow suture with the rostral, and a broad one with the frontal: praefrontals very small and widely separated: frontal as long as broad, in contact with the first (largest) supraciliary and with the first supraocular: three supraoculars, first largest: five supraciliaries: frontoparietals distinct, about as large as the interparietal: parietals narrow, forming a suture behind the interparietal, followed by a pair of nuchals: six upper labials, first largest: symphyseal very

* [The illustration of this new lizard is not yet completed and will appear in the next number of the Journal. Eds.]

large: ear completely hidden. 22 smooth scales round the middle of the body, dorsals a little larger than laterals and ventrals. A pair of enlarged praeanales. Tail thick. Pale greyish brown, with a pair of dark brown streaks along the middle of the back and a broader dorso-lateral pair; below the latter and on the belly, brown lines run between the series of scales.

Total length 95 mm.: tail (reproduced) 35 mm.

The single specimen described was found beneath a log at Bangtaphan.

This species is very closely related to the Australian *L. ophioscincus*, Blgr. (*Ophioscincus australis*, Peters), which differs in the rostral forming a broader suture with the frontonasal and in the broader frontal and parietals.

SIMOTES INORNATUS.

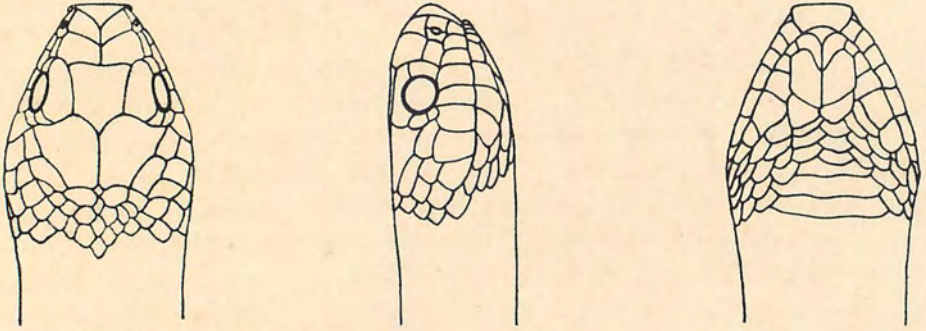
Nasal divided; portion of rostral seen from above, as long as its distance from the frontal; suture between the internasals longer than that between the praefrontals; frontal as long as its distance from the end of the snout, as long as the parietals; loreal a little longer than deep; one praeocular and two postoculars; no suboculars; temporals 1+2; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are nearly twice as long as the posterior. Scales in 15 rows. Ventrals 171; and entire; subcaudals 42. Uniform pale brown above, yellowish white beneath.

Total length 580 mm.; tail 90 mm.

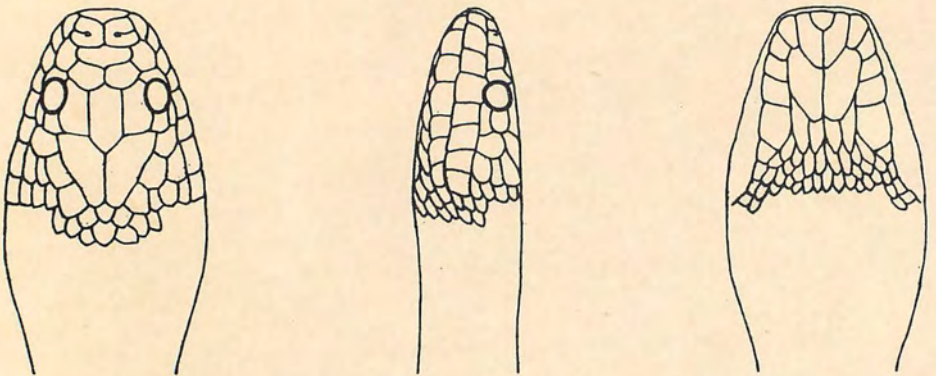
A single male specimen from Nong Kai Ploi, E. of Sriracha.

The number of rows of scales easily distinguishes this species from *S. violaceus*, Cantor, to which it is most nearly related.

[This snake was collected and kindly forwarded to me by Mr. P. A. R. Barron, of the Borneo Company, to whom I am also indebted for a second specimen, which differs from the type description in the following particulars. Portion of rostral seen from above, shorter than its distance from the frontal: suture between the internasals equal to to suture between the praefrontals. Loreal as long as deep. Ventrals 175. Subcaudals 40. Color. Above, dull, salmon-red (much brighter, I am informed, in life) and with very faintly marked dark greyish narrow cross-bars. Below, with indistinct, small, squarish spots, placed laterally, in the posterior half of the body and tail. This specimen has been in my possession for some months, and the handsome red coloring has gradually faded until now it is nearly of the brown hue described



SIMOTES INORNATUS. X2.



HYPsirrhina SMITHII. NAT. SIZE.



by Mr. Boulenger. Mr. Barron who saw both specimens when fresh informs me, however, that the first one never showed any red coloration. The drawing of the head, by Mr. C. L. Groundwater, is from the second specimen, which will be also presented to the British Museum.—M. S.]

HYTSIRHINA SMITHII.

Rostral twice as broad as deep; internasal single, a little more than twice as broad as long; frontal scarcely broader than the supra-ocular, twice as long as broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, a little shorter than the parietals; loreal as long as deep, in contact with the internasal; one preocular, the lower part, on one side, separated off as a subocular, two postoculars; temporals 1+2-3; eight upper labials, fourth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields; posterior chin-shields hardly distinguishable from the surrounding scales. Scales in 21 rows. Ventrals 121; anal divided; subcaudals 56. Head and anterior part of the body grey above, with a zigzag vertebral band formed of confluent large black spots, and black on the sides and beneath, the black being interrupted by light pinkish bars which are continued as irregular series of yellow spots across the belly; posterior part of body iridescent black, with incomplete narrow annuli, which are pinkish above and yellow beneath; upper surface of head spotted with black, with a black U-shaped mark from the angle of the mouth to the parietal. Tongue whitish (in life).

Total length 400 mm.; tail 80 mm.

A single female specimen from the river Menam at Bangkok.

This species, named after Dr. Malcolm Smith, is very closely allied to *H. jayorii*, Peters, from which it differs in the narrower frontal shield and, very strikingly, in the coloration.

[This snake was caught by a small boy whilst shrimping off Messrs. L. T. Leonowens, Ltd., and kindly sent me by Mr. Miller. I kept it alive for four months. It had the sluggish disposition that is found in so many of the fresh-water snakes, and never made any attempt to bite when handled. It was not strictly aquatic, and lived quite as much on the land as in the water. On one occasion it ate a fish, but afterwards refused all food.—M.S.]

Dr. Malcolm Smith has pointed out to me that two distinct forms have been confounded by Günther and by myself under the name of *Simotes taeniatus*. One, with 17 rows of scales and a blackish spot

at the base of the tail and another at the end, has been figured by Günther (Rept. Brit. Ind., pl. XX. fig. A). The other, with 19 rows of scales and without the spots on the tail has been described and figured by Jan as *S. quadrilineatus*. Unfortunately, the latter name is a strict synonym of *S. taeniatus*, Günther's original description (P. Z. S. 1861, p. 189) having been drawn up from a single specimen of the same form; so that I am compelled to propose a new name, *var. Mouhoti*, for the snake figured in the Reptiles of British India. I should have regarded these two forms as species, as Dr. Malcolm Smith, who has examined many specimens, finds them always quite distinct from each other, but for the fact that a specimen from Laos in the British Museum combines the number of scales of *S. taeniatus* with the coloration of *S. Mouhoti*. Dr. Malcolm Smith further points out a difference in the colour of the tongue, which is entirely reddish in the former, and black at the base and at the tips in the latter.

[I have now examined altogether some 40 specimens of these two forms from various parts of the country, and the fact that I had so far always found them distinct from each other, led me to think that they should be ranked as species. Both are equally common in Bangkok, but the form with 19 rows of scales is rare outside. The following are the various points of difference, drawn up from notes of my own specimens.

<i>S. taeniatus.</i>	<i>S. Mouhoti.</i>
(Drawn up from 15 specimens.)	(Drawn up from 25 specimens.)
19 rows of scales.	17 rows of scales.
Tongue red.	Tongue black at the base and tips.
Posterior head-mark arrow shaped.	Posterior head-mark heart shaped.
No tail-bars or collar.	1 or 2 tail-bars and a more or less complete collar. (Any or all occasionally absent).
Subocular rarely present.	Subocular generally present.
Ventrals 155-167.	Ventrals 144-163.
Temporals 2+2, rarely 1+2.	Temporals 1+2, rarely 2+2.

I should be grateful to any member of the Society who will forward me further specimens for examination. A description of the two forms will be found in the article on the Snakes of Bangkok, in this number.—M. S.]