

maturity, owing to the death of the mother. This happened in June, and judging from the state of their development, they would not, I think, have been born for some weeks. They were quite white, but in every way perfectly formed, including the "tentacles." The genital organs of all the males were extruded, rendering the differentiation of sex an easy matter. In the process of examination, some of them were allowed to become dry so that a count at that point could not be made.

Length of the mother, 770 mm.

The costals are counted two heads' lengths behind the head, at mid-body and two heads' lengths before the vent.

| MOTHER. COSTALS, 37. 39. 35. VENTRALS, 122. | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|--|
| MALES. | | | | FEMALES. | | |
| Costals. | | Ventrals. | Costals. | | Ventrals. | |
| 1. | 34. 35. 33. | 107 | 10. | 34. 37. 33. | 114 | |
| 2. | 36. 37. 35. | 122 | 11. | 36. 38. 35. | — | |
| 3. | 33. 36. 36. | 118 | 12. | — 37. — | — | |
| 4. | 34. 35. 33. | — | 13. | 34. 37. 33. | 116 | |
| 5. | 33. 36. — | 122 | | | | |
| 6. | 34. 37. — | 103 | | | | |
| 7. | — 37. — | — | | | | |
| 8. | 34. 35. 33. | 112 | | | | |
| 9. | 33. 35. 33. | 112 | | | | |

From the above list it will be seen that the number of scales in this species is by no means regular, and in this particular it resembles the true sea-snakes. The ventral shields also are extremely small, being not more than twice the breadth of the adjacent costals. They are sometimes missing entirely, and anteriorly are indistinguishable from the costals, making a true count difficult.

MALCOLM SMITH.

July, 1914.

No. XV.—NOTE ON A RARE LIZARD, (*LYGOSOMA ISODACTYLUM*.)

During the past year I have received or collected nine specimens of this rare lizard, previously known only from a single one

discovered by M. Mouhot in Cambodia during his travels in 1858-60.

The first two were caught in the stone quarries at Sanam Cheng (N. of Lopburi) but were so badly preserved as to be useless. A third was sent me by Mr. Greene, the station-master at Lopburi, having been caught in the station, and two more were shortly afterwards dug up in a garden at Sam Kok. In July, at Chong Kae, I caught four specimens alive, having found them beneath the stacks of fire-wood in the station yard. I kept them for some time, until one night a horde of ants invaded their cage and devoured them.

These lizards, as might be expected from the rudimentary condition of their limbs, are chiefly subterranean in their habits. They move about with a sinuous snake-like action, the fore-legs being in frequent use, the hind ones not at all, but pressed closely back along the sides of the body. In pushing their way about through small cracks and crevices and in burrowing in the earth, the fore-limbs also remain idle, and the creature becomes entirely snake-like in its movements. They can, however, be extremely active, and elude capture with great agility.

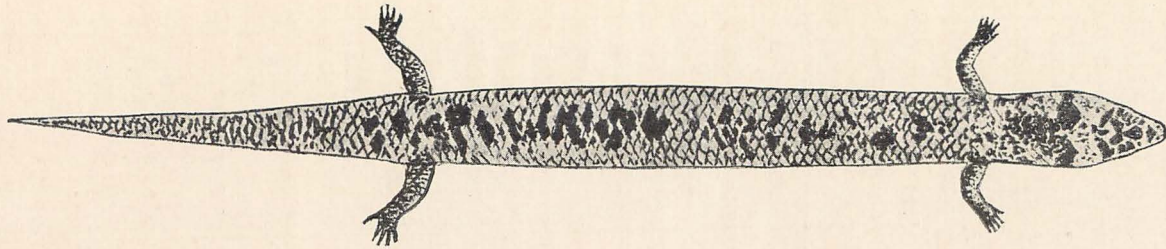
In lepidosis my specimens differed in no way from the type description, except in the number of scales round the body. This is given in the *Catalogue of Lizards in the British Museum* as 30. In mine they varied from 30 to 34.

Their color also varied slightly and was (in life) as follows:—Above, dark yellowish, thickly powdered with very dark brown, this color often confluent and forming patches. In one of them these patches were so extensive as to practically obscure the ground color. Sides, with a dark edge to each scale, forming oblique lines upwards and backwards. Below, pale yellow or yellowish white, speckled irregularly with brown. In the only half-grown specimen I obtained, the belly was of a uniform pale yellowish color. Labials, 1st excepted, barred with yellow and brown alternately.

The drawing, by Mrs. Stephen Groves, is from a specimen in which the tail had been reproduced. This appendage, therefore, is not shown in its full length. Normally it is nearly the length of the head and body.

MALCOLM SMITH.

May, 1914.



Lygosoma isodactylum, natural size.

