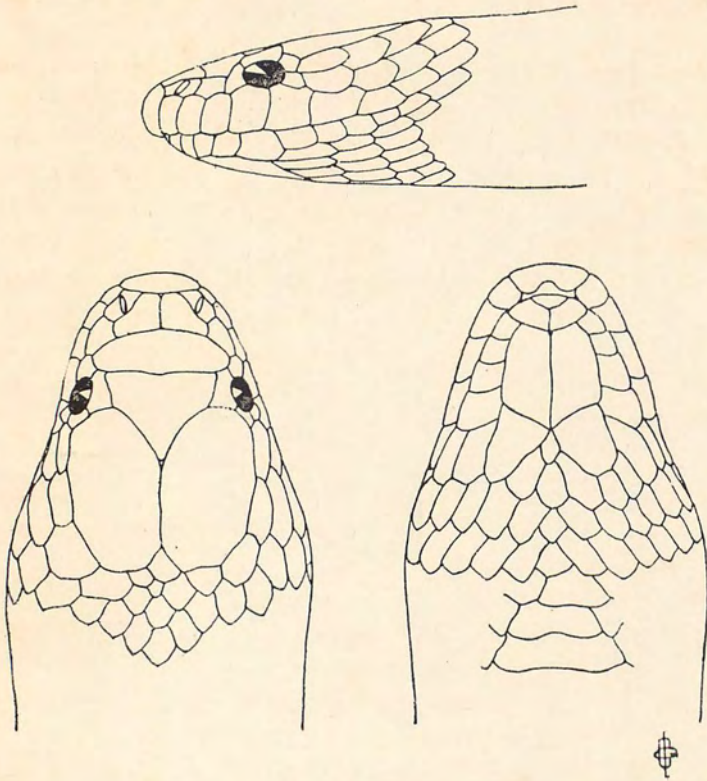


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Opisthotropis spenceri

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAKE (OPISTHOTROPIS
SPENCERI) FROM SIAM.

BY MALCOLM A. SMITH, F.Z.S.

WITH A PLATE.

Diagnosis. Scales in 17 rows, nasals separated by the internasals, praefrontal single, loreal in contact with the internasal, 7 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Nearest to *O. maxwelli* Boulenger, from South Fokien, China, and *O. atra* Gunther, said to be from West Africa, from both of which it differs in a number of small points.

Description. Snout broadly rounded, much depressed; nasal almost completely divided by a cleft running from the internasal to the 1st labial; rostral nearly twice as broad as deep, well visible above; internasals subtriangular, about as broad as long; praefrontal single, large, two and a half times as broad as long; frontal large, slightly longer than broad, as long as its distance to the rostral, nearly four times as broad as the supraocular; loreal a little longer than deep, in contact with the internasal; one prae- and two postoculars; temporals 1+2 or 2+2; seven supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; five infralabials in contact with the chin-shields, the anterior pair of which are larger than the posterior.

Scales in 17 rows throughout, entirely smooth. Ventrals 183, anal divided, subcaudals 33 (?).

Colour. Olive above, pale yellowish beneath, the colours mingled on the three outer rows of scales.

Total length, 600 mm.; tail (imperfect) 72.

Dentition. Maxillary, 25; palatine, 14; pterygoid, 18; mandibular, 22.

Type. Female; author's number, 1178, M. A. S., collected September, 1917, in Muang Ngow, N. Siam.

This new species is described from a single specimen, which was obtained in a hill stream at about 300 metres elevation by Mr. F. D. Spencer, after whom I have much pleasure in naming it.

The type will be presented to the British Museum of Natural History, London.

I am indebted to Mr. C. L. Groundwater for the drawing of the head.

