

Highness tells us that the orchid was named after a Mr. Friedrichs in the employ of B. Grimm & Co., and that it is usually known as the Chantabun Yellow “เหลืองจันทบุรุษ.”

A. KERR.

Bangkok, August 5th 1926.

No. II. Defoliation of Teak trees.

In the year 1907 the teak trees in the Mûang Yûam and Mè Hawng Sawng districts were severely defoliated by the larvae of a moth, *Pyrausta machoeralis*. Entire defoliation, resulting from the skeletonizing of the leaves, was general; but some trees were less severely attacked and retained their leaves. In very few places were the trees little affected.

The area of the attacked trees was probably very extensive. They were noted on the road north of Mûang Yûam, up to and in the Mè Lā Noi, in the Mè Salieng, Mè Kaw, Mè Ngé and Mè Sakôp. Defoliated trees were also noticed in the Mè Hawng Sawng district. The trees on the Burmah bank of the Salween were also attacked, the brown leaves showing plainly on the hillside.

Such attacks must be very uncommon; for Foresters and Karens living in the district generally expressed surprise, and stated they had never seen the trees so attacked before.

With the larvae of *Pyrausta* were associated some other defoliators, including the larvae of *Hybloeia puera* and of a Looper.

Mr. Stebbing considers that the probable causes of increased numbers of the insects are:—

(1) A sufficiency of food material and its collection together in pure blocks.

(2) A damp humid climate with early Spring rains.

Teak in the area under consideration is scattered mainly along the waterways, and perhaps nowhere occurs in anything like pure blocks; but the climate is humid and the year was marked by particularly heavy rain in May, which probably led to a large increase in the earlier generation.

H. B. G. GARRETT.

Chiengmai, May 19th 1927.

REVIEWS.

Monograph of the Sea-snakes (Hydrophiidae). BY MALCOLM SMITH. Pp. XVII+130+2 plates+35 text-figures. (LONDON: The Trustees of The British Museum, 1926.)

We are very glad to welcome the appearance of Dr. Malcolm Smith's Monograph of the Sea-snakes, published last November. The Monograph is doubly interesting to residents in this country; both from Dr. Smith's long residence here and close association with

the Natural History Society, and also from the fact that a great deal of the preliminary work was carried out in Siam, or Siamese waters. Dr. Smith has the great advantage of being intimately acquainted with his subject, both in the field and in the laboratory, and he makes full use of his advantage in this monograph.

Mr. C. Tate Regan contributes the preface, which opens with the following paragraph:—

“The Author of this monograph is well known to herpetologists for a number of valuable memoirs on the Reptiles and Batrachians of the Indo-Chinese and Malayan regions. In recent years he has paid special attention to the Sea-snakes, has travelled extensively in order to study them in their native haunts, and has made a large collection of them, which he has presented to the British Museum (Natural History). He has also examined the Sea-snakes preserved in all the great museums of the world, so that his revision of this interesting and difficult group is the result of an investigation based on a much larger series of specimens than has been seen by any previous worker.”

In the introduction the Author gives his views on the structural points that are of value in classification, and also sketches the main characteristics of the two subfamilies, Laticaudinae and Hydrophiinae, into which Sea-snakes are divided. Under the heading “Habits”, are many interesting observations, both original and quoted from other authorities. It is pleasing to learn that the species of at least one genus, *Laticauda*, “are remarkably gentle and inoffensive in disposition.” In the introduction are also given lists of the species occurring in each of the four regions: the Indo-Burmese, the Malayan, the Chinese and the Australian.

The main part of the work contains concise descriptions of all the known species of Sea-snakes, together with their distribution and variation. Keys are supplied for the genera, and, under each genus, for the species. Synonyms and references to literature are given very fully for each genus and species. At the end of the account of each species are the details of the specimens examined by the Author. This last item alone will give the reader who consults the monograph some idea of the amount of labour its preparation has entailed. Two new genera are created, and two new species and one subspecies are described in the monograph.

The work seems remarkably free from misprints and typographical errors. If one small fault might be found, it is with the index; where the trivial names are entered, not, as one might expect, in alphabetical order under their respective genera, but separately.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Dr. Malcolm Smith heartily on this notable contribution to Herpetology.