

of five specimens from Chiangmai, collected by Dr. and Mrs. McKean, presents an extraordinary case of Müllerian mimicry. These at first sight appear to belong to one rather variable species, but really represent two genera and four species. The Siamese species recorded are:— *Mesotrichia tenuiscapa* (Westwood); *Mesotrichia latipes* (Drury), var. *magnifica*, nov.; *Xylocopa iridipennis*, Lep., var. *semipurpurea*, nov.; *Xylocopa auripennis*, Lep., var. *phenachroa*, nov. (These four species are concerned in the mimicry noted above, *M. tenuiscapa* being the model); *Xylocopa collaris* Lep.; *Mesotrichia confusa mekeani*, Cockerell; *Mesotrichia flavonigrescens* (Smith) and *Mesotrichia kerri*, sp. n.

A. K.

Papers on Malayan Aquatic Biology. IX, A new *Corixa* (*Corixa evansi* sp. nov.) from Siam. By Cedric Dover. Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums, Vol. xiv (1929) pp. 399–400.

The above paper contains a description of, and remarks on a new species of this genus. The specimen on which the species is based was collected at light by Mr. I. H. N. Evans, at Chawng, in Trang Province. It is the only species of the genus *Corixa* in the extensive collections of aquatic Rhynchota belonging to the F. M. S. Museums. It is related to *C. substriata* Uhler.

A. K.

#### The Reptilia and Amphibia of the Malay Peninsula.\*—

This noteworthy paper has special interest for Siam for at least two reasons: the Malay Peninsula contains 30,000 square miles of Siamese territory, and the author is Dr. Malcolm A. Smith, who lived in Siam for many years, is the outstanding authority on the reptiles and amphibians of this part of the world, and is an esteemed member of the Siam Society.

An introduction by Mr. C. Boden Kloss, Director of Museums of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, indicates the purpose and scope of the paper, which was prepared by Dr. Smith at Mr. Kloss's request, as a supplement to the report by Dr. George A. Boulenger on the same subject published in 1912. In view of the many new species and new records secured since that date, together with various changes in nomenclature, it was desirable to have Boulenger's work brought up to date, and Dr. Smith was naturally entrusted with the task. The new material available to Dr. Smith has resulted chiefly from the expedition of Messrs. Robinson and Kloss to the northern part of the peninsula in 1919, from the extensive collections made by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Bangnara, in Pattani,

\* Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, Straits Settlements, No. 3, April, 1930, 149 pages.

and from the collections obtained by Dr. Smith and his native collectors.

The work contains descriptions of all new genera and species discovered in the peninsula since the appearance of Boulenger's volume, takes cognizance of all fresh information, and supplies a bibliography of the recent literature of the subject. The additions to Boulenger's list include 1 turtle, 16 lizards, 12 snakes, and 18 amphibians, but the net increase in the number of known forms is somewhat less, as several species have been suppressed and others have been omitted owing to the conclusion that the evidence of their occurrence is incorrect or inadequate. Most of the additions have come from that part of the peninsula which is in Siam, and Dr. Smith believes that some northern forms whose range may extend a short distance into the peninsula still remain to be discovered.

The reptilian and amphibian fauna of the Malay Peninsula, as shown by Dr. Smith's list, comprises the following:

Crocodiles	...	...	...	...	3
Turtles	...	...	...	...	24
Lizards	...	...	...	...	95
Serpents (including 24 sea snakes)	...	...	...	...	141
Frogs	...	...	...	...	61
Toads	...	...	...	...	18
Caecilians	...	...	...	...	2
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			Total	...	344
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The author refers to the "discontinuous distribution" exhibited by a number of species, which are especially listed and comprise the Siamese crocodile, a turtle, three lizards, five snakes, and five frogs and toads. These forms occur in the northern part of the Malay Peninsula and in the Malay Archipelago but are not met with in the southern part of the peninsula. This same peculiarity of distribution, which has not been satisfactorily explained, has been determined for various mammals, birds, and fresh-water fishes, and affects also invertebrate animals and plants. Dr. Smith mentions, as a striking case of "discontinuous distribution", Russell's viper, which on the Asiatic mainland is not found south of Bangkok but has recently been discovered on the islands of Komodo and Flores in the Malay Archipelago.

H. M. S.

#### **Herpetological Collections Made in Siam from 1923 to 1929.\***

—In this paper, Miss Doris M. Cochran, Assistant Curator of the Division of Reptiles and Batrachians in the United States National

\* Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. 77. pp. 1-39, 1930.