NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS RECENTLY DONATED TO THE CENTRE FOR THAI NATIONAL REFERENCE COLLECTIONS

by

PAUL SODERBERG

ABSTRACT: This paper records a collection of herpetological specimens recently donated to the Centre for Thai National Reference Collections (CTNRC) by the Royal Forestry Department (RFD), and includes notes about many of the specimens.

On 5 January 1967 the author was invited by Mr. TEM SMITINAND, Curator of the Forest Herbarium, Royal Forest Department, to identify and label a large collection of herpetological specimens which he and his colleagues and assistants had accumulated during the past decade. Once this had been accomplished and a list of the species represented compiled, the entire collection was to be donated to the CTNRC (Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand). The author accepted this kind invitation and completed his identifications after a period of about six months. Soon after, on 5 June, 1967, the collection was transferred to the CTNRC.

The collection, which contained 47 amphibia and 124 reptilia, or a total of 171 specimens, was noteworthy in its excellent representation of rare or little-known forms; of the 65 species and subspecies represented, 10 were new to the CTNRC. Further, the collection contained 56 "possible new provincial records," that is to say, specimens of a certain species which were collected in a particular province which, to the author's knowledge, that species had never been recorded from before.

The purpose of this paper then, is first to record this collection. Secondly, it should contribute to the knowledge of the distribution of certain forms, and the accompanying notations should contribute to what is known of the natural history of certain forms.

The specimens in the following list of the collection are arranged in a phylogenetic order. An asterisk (*) preceding a specimen number indicates that that specimen represents a "possible new provincial record".
Class **AMPHIBIA**

Order **SALIENTIA**

Family **PELOBATIDAE**

*Megophrys aceras* (BOULENGER) (not previously represented in the CTNRC)

* 513-1287: Phrae: Huay Hom; 20-3-61. This specimen, about 25 mm in total length, provided considerable difficulty in identification, and the author is not entirely convinced that it is this species.

Family **BUFONIDAE**

*Bufo macrotis* BOULENGER (not previously represented in the CTNRC)

* 513-1271 through 513-1277 (7 specimens): Phrae: Mae Ta: Suan Sak; 10-7-66. There is quite a bit of variation in the colour and texture of the skin in these specimens. In Suan Sak they are known as 'Yellow Toad'. These specimens were collected on the banks of a stream during a breeding period, a time when the species is reportedly plentiful.

513-1307: Uttaradit: Huay Kumdin; 5-4-61. At Huay Kumdin this species is known as 'khankop-baat' (คำบานมา). This particular specimen was taken from under the bark of a Bombax Tree (*Salmalia malabarica*).

*Bufo asper* GRAVENHORST

513-1278: Thailand. N.B.: In the field notes accompanying a second specimen, from Nakhon Srithammarat, which had to be discarded because of its poor state of preservation, it was stated that this species is eaten by the people in that area. This is surprising in view of the fact that the skin of *B. asper* is known to contain certain toxic secretions.

Family **RANIDAE**

*Rana limnocharis limnocharis* GRAVENHORST

513-1263 through 513-1267 (5 specimens): Satul prov.; 20-3-66. Taken in tropical evergreen forest.
NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS


Family RHACOPHORIDAE

Rhacophorus nigropalmatus BOULENGER

* 513-1281 (+ 4 tadpoles): Chieng Mai: Tat Noi c. 800 m; 19-1-60. This specimen differs from the description given by Dr. TAYLOR (1962: 481-482), but is recognizable as R. nigropalmatus.

Rhacophorus bimaculatus BOULENGER (not previously represented in the CTNRC)

* 513-1286: Loei: Phu Luang c. 1280 m. elev.; 27-11-64. The author knows of no mention of this species occurring at such a high elevation. This specimen was taken on a leaf. The characteristic reddish colouring on the digital webs has completely faded in this specimen due to the action of the preservative.

Rhacophorus leucomystax leucomystax (KUHL, in GRAVENHORST)

513-1300: Chieng Mai: Chieng Dao c. 600 m. elev.; 7-12-59. Collected in evergreen forest.

513-1306: Sukhothai: Thachai Teak Plantation; 3-3-64. In this part of Sukhothai the vernacular name of this species is ‘Kiet’ (เกียด). This particular specimen was found in a well.

Rhacophorus colletti BOULENGER

513-1308: Central Thailand; 10-6-64. This specimen was said to live on the leaves of the ‘Sakae’ plant (Combretum quadrangulare) and eat insects. The author assigns it to this species with considerable hesitancy, suspecting that in reality it may be one of the Philautus.

Family MICROHYLIDAE

Microhyla pulchra (HALLOWELL)

* 513-1299: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn: Khao Soidao; September 1956.
513-1305: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn: Khao Soidao; September 1956.
513-1309: Chonburi: Banbueng; 26-1-66. A note on this specimen’s bottle stated that it was ‘usually found during the night’.

*Microhyla ornata* DUMÉRIL & BIBRON
513-1301: Chieng Mai: Chieng Dao c. 600 m. elev.; 7-12-59. This specimen was collected in an evergreen forest.
* 513-1303 and 513-1304: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn: Khao Soidao; September 1956.

*Microhyla berdmorei* (BLYTH)
513-1302: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn: Khao Soidao; September 1956.
513-1310: Chonburi: Ban Bueng; 26-1-66. A note on this specimen’s bottle stated that this species was usually found during the night.

Order GYMNOPHIONA

Family CAECILIDAE

*Ichthyophis* sp.
512-13: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn: Pong Lieng c. 120 m. elev.; October 1956. This specimen was reported to have been dug up in a moist locality. Its vernacular name in Pong Namrawn was said to be ‘Ngu Din’ (นกิน), and the author has heard this applied to *Ichthyophis* in Bangkok. This, however, is decidedly a misnomer, as ‘ ngu’ means ‘snake’; some of the smaller Colubrid snakes are commonly called ‘Ngu Din’.
NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS 155

Class REPTILIA
Order TESTUDINES
Family PLATYSTERNIDAE
Platysternum megacephalum GRAY
521-41: Loei: Phu Luang.

Order SQUAMATA
Suborder SAURIA
Family GEKKONIDAE
Phyllodactylus siamensis BOULENGER

Gecko gekko gekko (LINNAEUS)
The vernacular name for this subspecies is 'Tukkae' (_strings).
Ptychozoon lionatum ANNANDALE

Family AGAMIDAE
Draco maculata subsp.
522-566 through 522-568 (3 specimens): Thailand.

Acanthosaura lepidogaster (CUVIER) (not previously represented in the CTNRC)
* 522-588: Loei: Phu Luang c. 4200 m. elev.; 27-11-64.
522-589: Chieng Mai: Doi Suthep; 5-7-60.

Calotes mystaceus DUMÉRIL & BIBRON
* 522-569 and 522-570: Sukhothai: Thachai Teak Plantation; 24-3-66. According to the collecting data for these specimens, C. mystaceus is a predator of the Teak Bee-Hole Borer (Xyleius cerambicus), an insect.

Leiolepis belliana belliana (GRAY)
Physignathus cocincinus Cuvier

Family VARANIDAE

Varanus dumerilii dumerilii (Schlegel) (not previously represented in the CTNRC)
522-583: Trang: Khao Chong; August 1959. This is a juvenile specimen.

Varanus bengalensis nebulosus (Gray)
* 522-582: Trang: Khao Chong c. 150 m. elev.; September 1959. This specimen was said to have been taken from its home in a hole in a tree trunk. It was said to eat insects. Its vernacular name in the Khao Chong vicinity is ‘Laen’ (ลุ้น).

Family LACERTIDAE

Takydromus sexlineatus ocellatus Cuvier
* 522-586: Sukhothai: Thachai Teak Plantation; 27-3-64.
522-587: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen: RFD campus; 20-1-66. This specimen was found in a garden of medicinal plants near the Herbarium.

Family SCINCIDAE

Mabuya macularia subsp.

Riopa haroldyoungi Taylor (not previously represented in the CTNRC)
* 522-580: Fang: Thaton; no date. This specimen was "killed by a villager," and is unfortunately badly mangled. It appears to be the second known specimen of this form, the type having been collected at the base of Doi Suthep in Chieng Mai province by Mr. Harold Young.

Sphenomorphus lineopunctatus Taylor (not previously represented in the CTNRC)
* 522-591: Khorat: Khao Yai; 14-12-62. This specimen was taken on a chestnut tree (Castanopsis sp.) but was said to crawl mainly on the ground in search of insects for food. It would appear to be the second specimen of its kind on record; the type was collected in Ubon province by Dr. Taylor.
NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

Suborder SERPENTES

Family ANILIIDAE

*Cylindrophis rufus rufus* SCHLEGEL

523-982: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen: RFD campus; 30-7-65. This specimen was evidently taken while it ate an eel. Its vernacular name given in its collecting data was ‘Ngu Kin Pla’ (นกินปลา = Fish-Eating Snake). This name, however, is not generally used in reference to this species although it may be applied to any aquatic species; it is usually used in reference to species of the *Enhydris* and *Natrix*, and the more common vernacular name of *C. rufus* is ‘Ngu Kon Khop’ (นกหมอบ).

523-1013 through 523-1015 (3 specimens): Phra Nakhon: Bangkok; 30-11-61. The collection notes for these specimens contain the interesting fact that they were attracted to lamp light at night.

523-1024: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen: RFD campus; 14-6-59.

* 523-1030: Sukhothai: Thachai Teak Plantation; between 24 October and 6 November 1966.

Family XENOPELTIDAE

*Xenopeltis unicolor* REINWARDT in BOIE

523-985: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen: RFD campus c. 5 m. elev.; 31-6-59. This specimen was caught at night and said to have “shining” skin. Its vernacular name was given as ‘Ngu Saeng-athit’ (นางแสงอาทิตย์).

523-998: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen; 7-3-61.

Family COLUBRIDAE

Subfamily COLUBRINAE

*Gonyosoma oxycephalum* (BOIE in BOIE)

523-981: Chiang Mai: Doi Suthep; 9-5-48. The local name given for this specimen was ‘Ngu Kieo Hang Haem’ (งูเขียวหัวแหว็ก); this should not be confused with ‘Ngu Kieo Hang Mai’ (งูเขียวหัวม้า), which refers to certain of the *Trimeresurus*.

523-1018: Either Chiang Mai or Lampang province; c. 1959.
Elaphe radiata (Schlegel)

523-955 through 523-959 (5 specimens): Phra Nakhon: Bangkok; RFD campus; 21-7-59.

523-978: Phra Nakhon: Bangkok: RFD campus; 22-9-60. The vernacular name for this form is ‘Ngu Thang Maprao’ (นกท้องแมประอ). This particular specimen was discovered under a pile of rotten lumber.

523-989: Phra Nakhon: Bangkok; 18-5-64.


* 523-1019: Lampang: Mae Huat; 27-7-64.


Elaphe flavolineata (Schlegel)

* 523-1000: This juvenile specimen was in a bottle having the following collecting data on it: Phra Nakhon: Bangkok: RFD campus; 31-6-59. However, the author strongly suspects this to be the data for a second specimen (No. 523-985, Xenopeltis unicolor) which was in the same bottle, and not for this Elaphe. The latter is not known to occur north of Nakhon Srithammarat province (a specimen, CTNRC No. 523-77, was collected in that province in May of 1966 by Messrs. C.J.P. Ionides and J.H.E. Leakey of East Africa).

Ptyas korros (Schlegel)

523-997: Phra Nakhon: Bangkok; 11-3-63.

Ptyas mucosus (Linnaeus)

* 523-961: Lampang: Huay Tak; 13-5-65. The vernacular name given for this specimen was ‘Ngu Sing’ (นกซิ่ง). This name also applies to other members of the Ptyas group, especially P. carinatus, and in some areas of the country to members of the genus Elaphe.

* 523-984: Loei: Ban Sihan; 21-11-63. The vernacular name given for this specimen was ‘Ngul Sing Dong’ (นกซิ่งดง). The specimen was reported to have been found in “dipterocarp forest”.

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

**Lycodon subcinctus subcinctus Boie**

523-966: foothills of Khao Phrami c. 60 m. elev.; 10-1-66.


**Lycodon laoensis Günther**

*523-1002: Phitsanulok: Thung Salaeng Luang National Park; 27-4-63. The vernacular name given for this specimen was 'Ngu Pong Lueang' (นกปงหลวง). It was discovered on the stump of a tree (*Shorea* sp.).

**Lycodon capucinus Boie**

*523-964: Thonburi: Thonburi; 4-2-67.

523-1006: Thailand.

**Oligodon cinereus swinhonis (Günther)**

*523-947: Phitsanulok: Thung Salaeng Luang National Park; 27-5-61. The author feels that his identification of this specimen may be incorrect, inasmuch as the specimen, to the best of his knowledge, does not have apical pits in its scales, as it should according to Dr. Taylor's key (1965: 756-757). Dr. Taylor (*Ibid.*) described a specimen from Chiang Mai which he believed to be the first one of this subspecies from Thailand. If the present identification is correct No. 523-947 would appear to be the second recorded Thai specimen.

**Oligodon inornatus (Boulenger) (not previously represented in the CTNRC)**

*523-1021: Lampang: Mae Huat; 27-7-64. This specimen differs from Boulenger's type-description (cited by Taylor, *op. cit.*:762) in that the body is not uniform brown, having small black marks on many of the scales. Also, each ventral of the posterior two-thirds of the venter is clouded with grey for most of the scale, save for a bar of ivory on both sides where the scale is angularly-bent. These bars form two distinct and continuous parallel lines which extend to the anal. The latter is ivory-coloured, and the subcaudals ivory peppered in a few places with grey.
Oligodon cyclurus smithi (WERNER)
* 523-1028: Khorat: Pak Thong Chai: near TREND campsite c. 350 m. elev.; 9-5-67. The author observed this specimen in its preservative one day after being preserved. In colour it was a wonderfully orange, salmon hue. Since that time this has greatly faded, and the specimen is now a much lighter, tan colour. The author also observed the same phenomenon in a specimen collected in Chonburi: Banglamung.

Oligodon quadrilineatus (JAN)
523-990: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen; April 1959.
* 523-1008: Nakhon Srithammarat: Khao Luang c. 600 m. elev.; 17-5-59.

Calamaria siamensis GÜNTHER
* 523-971: Khorat: Khao Yai National Park; 6-1-63. This specimen was discovered on the ground near a termite hill. Its vernacular name was given as ‘Ngu Din’ (งูดิน).

Ahaetulla ahaetulla ahaetulla (LINNAEUS)
523-1001: Thailand; 10-6-64. ‘Ngu Kan Maprao’ (งูแคนแม่นาพร้าว).

Subfamily NATRICINAE

Natrix flavipunctata (HALLOWELL)
523-942: Chantaburi: Makham c. 100 m. elev.; 20-9-56. The vernacular name for this specimen was given as ‘Ngu Hao Na’ (งูห่าโอะ, Ngu Hao means Cobra, Naja kaouthia kaouthia).
523-951 through 523-953 (3 specimens): Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen c. 10 m. elev.; 3-6-57. The vernacular name given for these specimens was ‘Ngu Laisor’ (งูライ sorrow), and this is the
name usually used in reference to this species. The name 'Ngu Hao Na', applied to CTNRC No. 523-942, is misleading.

* 523-1017: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn; February 1959.

**Macrophistodon rhodomelas** (BOIE)

523-949: Trang: Khao Chong; September 1959.

**Rhabdophis subminiatus subminiatus** (SCHLEGEL)

* 523-977: Uttaradit prov.; April 1961. The vernacular name given for this specimen was 'Ngu Mang Kasab' (งูมังกะซาม).


523-1009: Uttaradit: Huay Maeng; 11-4-61. At Huay Maeng this snake is known as the Red-necked Cobra.

* 523-1012: Khorat: Klang Dong; 9-12-62. Two vernacular names were given for this species in the collection data with this specimen, viz., 'Ngu Daeng Hae' (งูแดงห้วย) and 'Ngu Hao Nam' (งูหนา). The specimen was said to have been found on a Bombax Tree (*Salmalia malabarica*), and reported to eat small insects and insect larvae. The author, though he has kept several dozen specimens of this species under observation, has never seen one eat anything other than Amphibia.

Subfamily **BOIGINAE**

**Boiga multomaculata** (BOIE)

* 523-940: Loei: Phu Krading c. 1300 m. elev.; November 1955. A note accompanying this specimen reports that it is not common in grasslands.

**Dryophis prasinus** REINWARDT, in BOIE

* 523-943: Lampang: Mae Huat; 6-3-63.

* 523-944: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn; September 1956.

* 523-945: Khorat: Pak Thong Chai; 29-9-63.

523-946: Lampang: Mae Huat; 14-7-61. This specimen was taken in a teak forest. In Mae Huat the species is evidently known as 'Ngu Lao-Sa' (งูlassen).

* 523-976: Kanchanaburi: Ban Na Tham; 17-7-63. In this locality the species is evidently called 'Ngu Khieo' (งูเขียว).
In Bangkok, however, where this snake does not occur, this name is invariably applied to *Dryophis nasutus*, and may also be used to designate specimens of *Chrysopelea ornata*.


**Dryophis nasutus** (LACÉPÈDE)


**Dryophiops rubescens** (GRAY)


**Psammodynastes pulverulentus** (BOIE)

* 523-983: Surat Thani : Khao Hin Pun; September 1963. The vernacular name given with this specimen was ‘Ngu Kapa Fai’ (Ngu Kapa Fai). This, however, is most likely a misnomer, as this name is generally applied to *Aegkistrodon rhodosoma*, a snake *P. pulverulentus* superficially resembles.

* 523-995: Khonkaen : Dong Lan Dip; 9-10-63.

* 523-999: Chantaburi : Pong Namrawn : Wang Kapi c. 120 m. elev.; September 1956.

**Chrysopelea ornata** (SHAW)

* 523-963: Lopburi : Chai Badan; 25-10-63. The vernacular name given for this specimen was ‘Ngu Khieo’ (Ngu Khieo).

* 523-1020 and 523-1026: Lampang : Mae Huat; 27-7-64. The vernacular name given for these specimens was ‘Ngu Pao’ (Ngu Pao). They were reported to have been discovered at the stump of a teak tree.

Subfamily **Homalopsinae**

**Enhydris plumbea** (BOIE)

* 523-1027: Lampang : Mae Huat; 27-7-64.

**Enhydris enhydris** (SCHNEIDER)

523-941: Phra Nakhon : Bangkhen : RFD campus c. 5 m. elev.; 27-3-58.

523-960: Phra Nakhon : Bangkok; 11-11-65. ‘Ngu Pla’ (Ngu Pla = ‘Ngu Kin Pla’).
Erpeton tentaculatum Lacépède

523-991: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen; 12-5-64.

Family ELAPIDAE

Bungarus fasciatus (Schneider)

523-992: Phra Nakhon: Bangkhen; 14-5-59. This species, once relatively common in Bangkok, is now seldom met with in this city.

Naja kaouthia kaouthia Lesson in Férussac

* 523-967: Trang: Khao Chong; 14-11-59. The vernacular name applied to this snake at Khao Chong is ‘Ngu Hao’ (งูหאו), and this is the generally accepted term throughout the country. However, in various parts of the country variations of this designation are used.

* 523-993: Tak: Sam-ngao; 2-6-59. ‘Ngu Hao’.

* 523-994: Loei: Phu Kradung: Ban Sihan; 25-10-63. The vernacular name given this specimen was ‘Ngu Hao Chom Pluak’ (งูห้อชมปลวก), or Termite-hill Cobra. However, the fact that this specimen was found in a termite-hill may explain this.

* 523-1016: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn; February 1959.

Calliophis maculiceps maculiceps Günther

523-954: Trang: Khao Chong; 27-9-59. This specimen has rather large black spots on its dorso-lateral aspects, and in this respect resembles two specimens figured by Dr. Taylor (1965: 975-976, figs. 95 and 96). The author has observed that specimens from Peninsular Thailand seem to have large spots as a rule, while specimens from Central, Eastern, and Northern Thailand have tiny spots. One specimen examined by the author, CTNRC No. 523-553, from Chieng Rai province, had an almost immaculate body.

* 523-973: Khorat: Pak Thong Chai; 27-9-63.
Family HYDROPHIIDAE

Subfamily HYDROPHIINAE

*Kerilia jerdoni siamensis* SMITH

523-987: Songkla prov.; 18-11-59.

*Praescutata viperina* (SCHMIDT)


*Hyrophis mammillaris* DAUDIN

* 523-988: Songkla prov.; 18-11-59.

Family CROTALIDAE

*Aghistrodon rhodostoma* (BOIE)

* 523-950: Chantaburi: Pong Namrawn: Hindat c. 225 m. elev.; 1-2-59. This specimen was taken in a deciduous forest. Its vernacular name in Pong Namrawn is ‘Ngu Kapa Fai’ (ตีนกบ).

* 523-962: Surat: Surat-Krabi Highway, km. 44, c. 50 m. elev.; September 1963. The collecting data for this specimen states that the species is common along streams. This is in contrast to the fact that in numerous localities (Chonburi, Prachuap Khirikhan, etc.) this species is quite plentiful in dry, sandy areas.

* 523-1003: Narathiwat: Bajo; 7-11-62. The collection data for this specimen states that the species inhabits areas of moist soil, or rocky areas (see the note about No. 523-962).

*Trimeresurus sumatranus* (RAFFLES) (not previously represented in the CTNRC)

* 523-970: Trang: Khao Chong; 14-11-59. This would appear to be the second Thai specimen on record. DR. TAYLOR (1965: 1071) wrote: “This species is included in the Thai list on the basis of a report by Dr. Malcolm SMITH, (1930)—'I have recently examined a specimen from Patani.'” The present specimen was given the vernacular name ‘Ngu Khieo Hang Mai’ (ตีนกบหางแม่น้ำ) by its collector, who undoubtedly
thought it was one of the more common Trimeresurus; T. albolabris, T. erythrurus, and the other green Trimeresurus are all known by the name ‘Ngu Khieo Hang Mai’.

*Trimeresurus albolabris* Gray

523-948: Nakhon Srithammarat: Khao Luang c. 150 m. elev.; 27-9-59. The collection data for this specimen are most intriguing: “Feeding on rats; bluish green in colour with dark brown stripes; local name ‘Ngu Kapa’ (นกเค้า).” The latter name is usually used with reference to *Aghistodoron rhodostoma*.

523-968 and 523-969: Thailand. These specimens are unfortunately in a very poor state of preservation, although they can be identified relatively easily. They were given the vernacular name ‘Ngu Khieo’ (usually used for the Dryophis and *Chrysopelea ornata*), and were said to be common in grassland areas.

*523-979: Phrae: Ban Huay Lie; 15-6-66. This specimen was found in a bamboo clump.*

523-1005: Thailand.

523-1029: Thailand.

*Trimeresurus popeorum* Smith (not previously represented in the CTNRC)

523-1004: Loei: Phu Luang c. 1525 m. elev.; 2-12-64. This specimen, given the vernacular name ‘Ngu Khieo Hang Mai’ (นกเค้าห้องใหม่), was taken in evergreen forest. Unfortunately, only the head was preserved.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author wishes to express his sincere gratitude to Mr. Tem Smitinand for allowing him to work with the collection reported on in this paper, for encouraging him to write this paper, and, most important, for eventually donating the entire collection to the CTNRC. He wishes also to thank Mr. Smitinand and Mr. Dhanee Phanichapol for their help in the preparation of this paper.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

TAYLOR, Edward H.

