

It is noted that an antivenine is produced for the closely related Green Pit Viper, *T. popeorum*, the bite of which causes lymphatic swellings amongst other symptoms. Whilst there is apparently no necessity for a specific antivenine for the infrequently encountered Shore Pit Viper (as none is in fact produced) it would seem worthwhile to examine the application of that of the Green Pit Viper for use in case of bites of the former.

REFERENCES

- TAYLOR, E.H., 1965. The Serpents of Thailand and Adjacent Waters. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 45: 609-1096.
- TWEEDIE, M.W.F., 1957. The Snakes of Malaya (second edition). Singapore.

C.B. and D.W. Frith

P.O. Box 200, Phuket, Thailand.

II. Re-discovery of *Riopa haroldyoungi* Taylor, 1962.

The second known specimen of *Riopa haroldyoungi* Taylor, 1962, was collected in December of 1974 by a malaria eradication team, in Tambon Ratanawapi, Nong Khai province, on the highway between Phon Phi Sai and Nong Khai. Collected during the day, it was evidently a road kill, judging from the slightly damaged condition of the left side of the head and the skin of the middle back. The Nong Khai locality is more than 500 km. from the type locality (the base of Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai province), suggesting that the species may not be extremely rare in nature, but rather that it has been so seldom collected due to secretive habits and habitats.

The Nong Khai specimen (Way#182), now deposited with the National Reference Collection at the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand (ASRCT), was initially identified by the author in January of 1975; the specimen was subsequently sent to Dr. E.H. Taylor of the University of Kansas, the author of the species. Confirming the

identification, Dr. Taylor states that he is "...certain that it is not a species different from *R. haroldyoungi*, not even a subspecies" (pers. comm. 1975). The specimen agrees closely with the type in all respects (see Table 1) except the pattern of coloration which differs on the two specimens: the bands and reticulations are variable in size, number, and relative body position (see photos).

Table 1. Comparative body measurements of known specimens of
Riopa haroldyoungi.

	Type	Way # 182
Total length	150 mm	220 mm
Snout to vent length	136 mm	108 mm
Vent to tail tip	14 mm*	112 mm**
Snout to arm insertion	29 mm	28 mm
Axilla to groin	97 mm	95 mm
Arm	11 mm	11 mm
Leg	12 mm	15.5 mm
Width of head	12 mm	11 mm
Length of head	18 mm	16 mm
Snout to ear	16 mm	16 mm
Greatest body width	13.6 mm	11.5 mm
Mid-body scale count	40-42	35-38

* Tail entirely lost, regeneration begun.

** Tail-tip lost, regeneration begun.

No ecological data has been published for the species, though several inferences may be safely drawn from the external morphology and topography. The elongate body form and the reduced limbs with clawed digits both suggest a fossorial existence, but the color pattern, head structure and scaleation, and the position of the forelimbs all bespeak a less specialized habitat. The distinctive colour pattern is not typical of the truly fossorial species, which are usually unicolour white, grey, or black, or one dorsal colour and one ventral colour rather, the head-shape and the presence of a distinctive colour pattern are reminiscent of

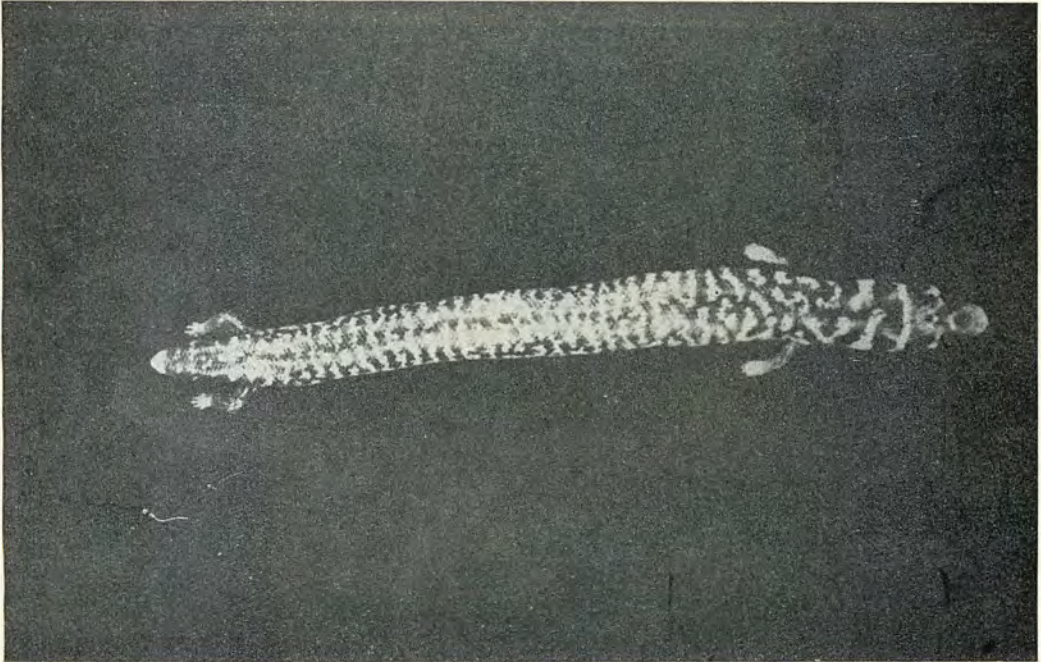


Fig. 1. *Riopa haroldyoungi* Taylor. Type. From Taylor, Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull., vol. 43, no. 7, 1962, Fig. 12.

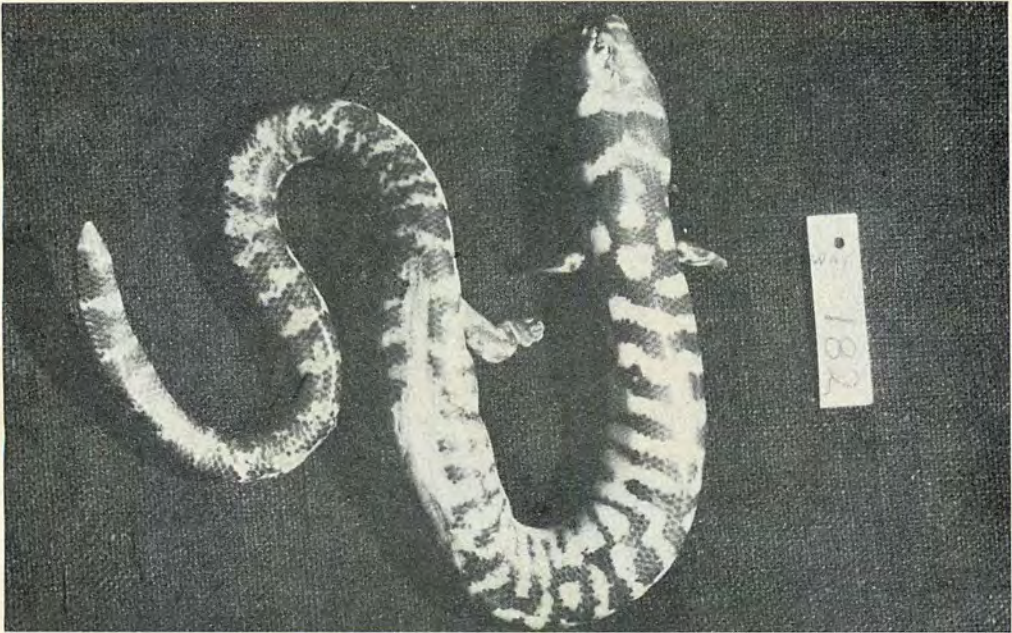


Fig. 2. *Riopa haroldyoungi* Taylor. Way 182. On deposit at the Vertebrate Collection, Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand, Bangkok.

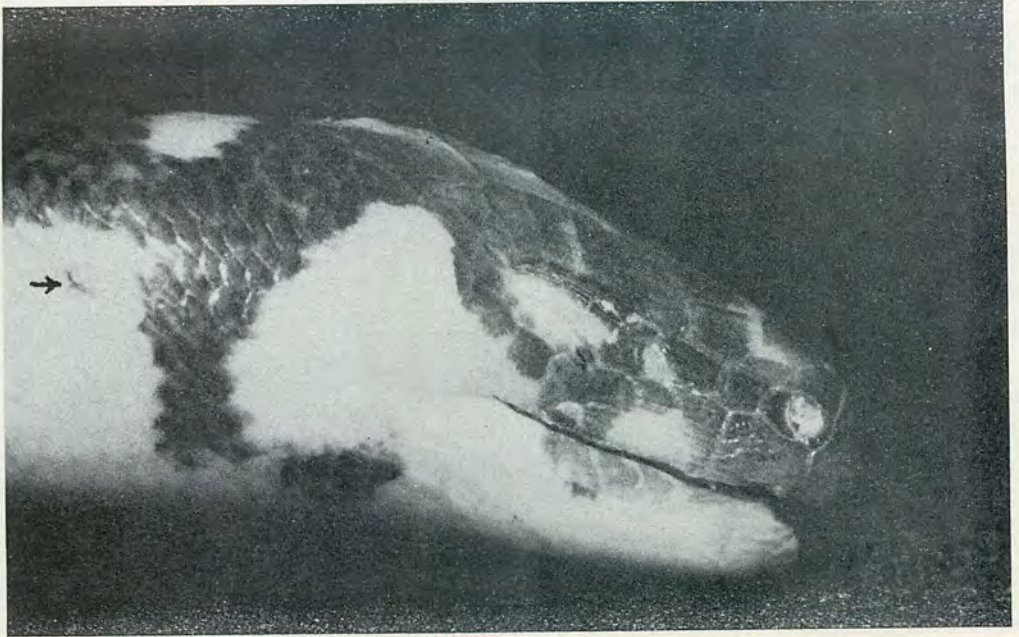


Fig. 1. Head of *Riopa haroldyoungi*. Note ear-opening (arrow), scaled lower eyelid and exposed nostril.

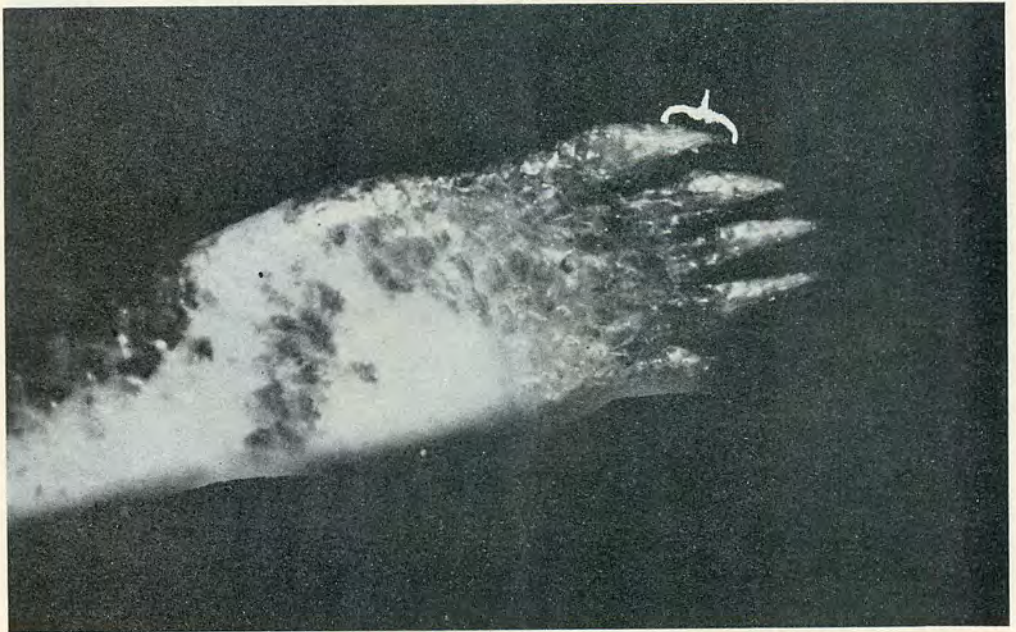


Fig. 2. Right fore-foot of *Riopa haroldyoungi*. Note clawed digits.

several species of semi-fossorial, legless skinks such as *Isopachys gyldenstoepei*. The forelimbs are positioned so far back from the snout (28-29 mm.) and are so reduced (11 mm. long) as to make them relatively useless for burrowing. These reduced limbs could, however, be useful in aiding the typical undulating locomotion of the terrestrial skinks, or in moving through the secretive habitats of semi-fossorial species: e.g., accumulated forest litter, matted forest floor vegetation, or the organic accumulations associated with fallen logs. It is therefore suggested that the species be sought in habitat types such as deciduous or evergreen forests with a year-round accumulation of plant detritus.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Prasert Lohavanijaya, Dr. Nipan Ratanaworabhan, Nivesh Nadee, and Supachai Sittilert of the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand for calling the specimen to the author's attention and kindly loaning it for study. Special thanks to Dr. E.H. Taylor are in order for confirming the identification and giving advice and comments. Thanks also go to Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, of the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife of Thailand, under whose supervision this study was completed.

REFERENCES

- TAYLOR, E.H., 1962. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 43: 242-244, fig. 12.
TAYLOR, E.H., 1963. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 44: 971-974, fig. 72.

William K. Way

Association for the Conservation of
Wildlife of Thailand, U.S. Peace
Corps Volunteer