

BULLETIN

DU

Musée royal d'Histoire
naturelle de Belgique

Tome XV, n° 60.

Bruxelles, décembre 1939.

MEDEDEELINGEN

VAN HET

Koninklijk Natuurhistorisch
Museum van België

Deel XV, n° 60.

Brussel, December 1939.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FROM BOUGAINVILLE, SOLOMON ISLANDS,

by H. W. PARKER (London).

Writing nearly twenty years ago of the herpetology of the Solomon Islands, BARBOUR (1921) said « ... we now may safely say that the fauna is really well known — unless exploration of the highlands of the interior of the islands reveals unexpected upland forms ». Since that was written, a good deal of work has been done in the archipelago and, as a result of increased attention being paid to the smaller, cryptozoic species, notably the skinks, a further 13 nominal species have been described from the islands. Father J. B. PONCELET, to whom science is already indebted for the discovery of a new lizard (*Tribolonotus ponceleti* KINGHORN 1937) has now amassed a small, but interesting, collection from Bougainville. This collection contains specimens of interest both from the taxonomic and zoo-geographical standpoint and it seems desirable to record all the species collected since the island is one of the least explored of the whole group.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to the Director and Staff of the « Musée royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique » for the kindness and facilities extended to him whilst working as a guest in their institution.

Amphibia, Salientia***Ceratobatrachus guentheri* Boulenger.**

2 ♀♀ Buin.

***Cornufer guppyi* Boulenger.**

♀ Pareronno-Buin, 10 miles inland.

***Rana bufoniformis* Boulenger.**

3 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, 1 juv. Buin.

This series shows a considerable amount of sex-dimorphism. The females range in size from 106-150 mm. (average 131) whilst the males which are apparently mature, with fully developed vocal sacs, range from 58 to 61 mm. (average 59).

***Rana guppyi* Boulenger.**

♂, 3 ♀♀, juv. Buin.

***Hyla thesaurensis* Peters.**

3 ♀♀ Buin.

***Hyla lutea* Boulenger.**

2 ♂♂, ♀ Buin.

BARBOUR (loc. cit.) found that the degree of webbing of the digits of *H. thesaurensis* was somewhat variable, and believed that the potential range of variation in this character was sufficiently great to include the condition of *H. lutea* BOULENGER; consequently he regarded the latter as a synonym and no subsequent author has re-investigated the matter. The three specimens mentioned above are amply distinct from the three referred to *H. thesaurensis* and have been compared with the types of *H. lutea* and a series of more than 50 specimens of *thesaurensis*. The result makes it evident that BARBOUR was wrong and that the two are indeed distinct species. No specimen of *thesaurensis* examined has the fingers more than 1/3 webbed (usually merely

« webbed at the base ») whilst in *lutea* the female has them at least half, and the male almost $\frac{2}{3}$ webbed, the standards for comparison being the figures given by NIEDEN (1923, p. 8). In addition the snout of *lutea* is longer and more pointed than that of *thesaurensis*, the bones are not green and the size is larger; males of the former measure 58 and 59 mm. from snout to vent and females range from 63 to 67 mm., whereas in a series of over 50 *thesaurensis* the largest male and female only measure 46 and 60 mm. respectively, the average adult size being considerably less, approximately 44 and 40 mm.

Reptilia, Sauria.

Gecko vittatus Houtt.

7 ♂♂ & ♀♀ Buin.

Gonocephalus godeffroyi (Peters).

3 Ads., 2 juvs. Buin.

Varanus indicus (Daudin).

2 Ads. Buin.

Corucia zebrata Gray.

2 Ads. Buin.

Riopa (Eugongylus) albofasciolata (Günther).

1 Ad. ♀ Buin.

Dasia smaragdina perviridis Barbour.

4 Ads. Buin.

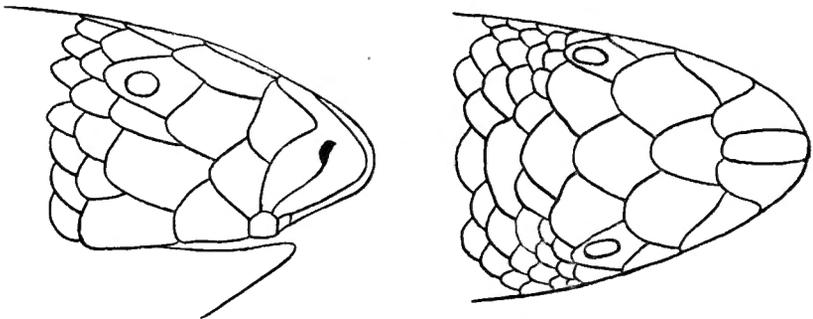
Lygosoma (Ictiscincus) solomonis Boulenger.

3 Ads. Buin.

Serpentes.**Typhlops solomonis** sp. n.

Closely allied to *T. infralabialis* WATTE, but differing in the presence of a divided praeocular and thirty-two, instead of twenty-six, scale rows.

Holotype in the « Musée royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique », collected at Buin, 10 miles inland on Bougainville, Solomon Islands, by the Reverend Father J. B. PONCELET, 2. VI. 38.



Typhlops solomonis sp. n.

Snout acutely pointed and prominent. Rostral small and narrow, extending backwards to a point about half way between the tip of the snout and the level of the anterior border of the eyes; latter scarcely visible. Nostril lateral in a semi-divided nasal, the suture arising from the second upper labial (*); two superposed prae-oculars, corresponding to the single prae-ocular of *infralabialis* and separated from the ocular by a row of scales of uncertain homologies, but apparently derived from the ocular itself. The latter is small and separated from the upper labials by two scales; an enlarged supra-ocular and a median row of four enlarged scales following the rostral. Four upper labials. Scales in 32 rows at mid body.

Grey above; brownish beneath.

Snout to vent 390 mm.; tail 17 mm.

Length-diameter ratio 34.

(*) In the type of *infralabialis* this suture arises from the first upper labial, but in a topotype, B. M. 1932. 3.16.2, it arises from the second.

The head-scutellation of this form and of *infralabialis* is very different from that of all other known species of the genus; at present it seems impossible to homologise the numerous small shields of the ocular region but their disposition can be appreciated from the accompanying diagram.

Enygrus carinatus (Schneider).

♂, 2 ♀♀ Buin.

Dendrophis calligaster Günther.

3 ♀♀ Buin.

Boiga irregularis (Merrem).

2 ♂♂, ♀ Buin

REFERENCES.

- BARBOUR, T., 1921, « Reptiles and Amphibians from the British Solomon Islands ». *Proc. New England Zoological Club*, 7, pp. 91-112.
- NIEDEN, F., 1923, *Das Tierreich*, Anura, I.
-

GOEMAERE, Imprimeur du Roi, Bruxelles.