

THE MADRAS
MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF
MEDICAL SCIENCE.

Vol. 1 No. IX.—SEPTEMBER, 1870.

ORIGINAL ESSAYS.

ART. XIII.—*Descriptions of new Reptiles from the Madras Presidency.* By Major R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests.

(In continuation of Article II. Vol. I.)

Cercaspis Travancoricus. (Bedd.) Rostral deeply grooved below, not much produced back between the anterior frontals, anterior frontals small, not half the size of the posterior, vertical shield-shaped three-sided pointed behind, occipitals longer than the vertical pointed behind, loreal much longer than high, preocular reaching the surface of the head and touching the post-frontal and vertical, eight upper labials, 3rd, 4th and 5th enter the orbit, two postoculars, scales in 17 rows quite smooth, with small apical groove, ventrals angled at the sides, 66 entire subcaudals, or a few of them double towards the apex of the tail; total length 15 inches, of which the tail is $2\frac{3}{4}$; color black, with white transverse bars, belly uniform whitish, very like *Lycodon striatus*, but with entire subcaudals.

Travancore hills, Attraymallay, 5,000 feet elevation—under stones, rare; it has quite the coloration of *Lycodon striatus*. Two specimens were found, one of which had all

the subcaudals single, and the other had the first 38 entire, and the 28 small ones towards the apex of the tail double.

Melanophidium bilineatum. (Bedd.) Fifteen rows of smooth scales, tail compressed (as in *Plectrurus*) ending in a single point, head rather elongate, snout rounded, mouth large, nasals forming a suture behind the rostral, frontals large produced back to a level with the eye over the ocular shield, eye very small, no supra-ocular, a median groove, belly and back uniform bluish black, very nacreous and assuming all the colors of the rainbow in the sun, a broad yellow streak from the snout to the tail on each side, which occupies the whole of the second scale from the abdominals and half the first and third scales, subcaudals 14 pair, total length eight inches, as thick as a goose's quill.

This very lovely species was found near the summit of the Peria peak in the Wynaad, elevation 5,000 feet, and also at a similar elevation on the Tirrhoot peak, both under stones.

Silybura Canarica. (Bedd.) Scales in 15 rows, anal large bifid, subcaudals 12, abdominals about 154, snout obtuse, rostral triangular behind produced back between the nasals, nasals forming a suture behind the rostral, vertical four-sided very pointed behind, eye rather large in front of a large ocular shield, pupil round, caudal disk laterally compressed (as in *Plectrurus*), each scale with 3-5 inconspicuous keels and ending in two sharp spines one above the other. Very variable in its marking, but generally of a brownish color, with only the anterior portion of the trunk variously streaked, blotched and dotted with yellow, tail always yellow beneath. Length of largest specimen 16 inches, girth of trunk $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This species has only 15 rows of scales as in *macrolepis*, but its caudal disk differs from that species, and it must be arranged in a different section, as I look upon all the species with a flat caudal disk like *Silybura Shortii* as sectionally (if not specifically) distinct from the species with the tail of *Plectrurus*.

South Canara, very common on the top of the Kudra Mukh, a mountain 6,000 feet high, under stones and in heaps of rubbish. No *Uropeltidæ* were met with on the Ghats north of the Kudra Mukh, though most careful search was made every day under stones. On the eastern coast, the most northern limit at which I have detected this tribe, is the Golcondah hills near Vizagapatam, where, in a fort-

night's search, I found a single specimen of *Silybura Elliottii*, and *Silybura Beddomii* is scarce on the Nullay Mallays near Kurnool. *Uropeltidæ* or rough-tails, are, I believe, confined to the mountains or the forests very near their base. I have occasionally found *Rhinophis sanguineus* in the plains of Malabar, but then always in the dense forests not far from the Ghats, and *Silybura Elliottii* and *Beddomii* are found on the table-land of Mysore, elevation about 3,000 feet; all the other species have only occurred to me on the mountains, and I believe Dr. Gunther is in error in giving the neighbourhood of Madras as a locality for *Silybura Elliottii*.

Pseudophiops monticola. (Bedd.) Nostrils lateral in the lower part of a large nasal shield, with two small post nasals, the lower one the larger, but both together not equalling the nasal, loreal region concave, loreals two, the posterior much the larger and separated from the eye by several small shields; nine upper labials, the fifth very large and under the eye, eight lower labials all nearly equal; medial lower labial very large, six pair of chin shields (exactly the same as in *P. Jerdonii*), the three first pair forming sutures the sixth very small; anterior frontals one small pair about the size of the nasal or rarely three shields, the intermediate one being larger than the two lateral; posterior frontals three, the intermediate one being the smallest, rarely only two, vertical superciliaries and occipitals as in *P. Jerdonii*, but the shield between the post occipitals is rather larger than in that species, and all the head shields are longitudinally plicated as in *P. Jerdonii*, but more warty; femoral pores 10 on each side, none in the preanal region; a single large preanal shield, with a second one behind it about half its size (as in *P. Jerdonii*); scales of the back in 25-26 rows, acutely keeled except in the two rows adjoining the abdominal scales; keels more prominent towards and on the tail, and forming continuous raised ridges; abdominal scales large and smooth in six rows. Color uniform brownish above, with sometimes a paler indistinct streak along each side of the back from the post occipitals to the tail, and a more prominent whitish streak along each side from the ear to the hind leg; belly uniform whitish.

On the summit of the Brumagherries in Wynaad in grassy places, elevation 5,000 feet, common, and in the plains in South Canara near Sooleay, very rare; the single specimen


found in the plains differed from the mountain form in having no intermediate shield between the post frontal, whereas it is present in all the specimens collected on the Brumagherries; but these latter have some of them only two anterior frontals, whereas others have three. This species is not so prettily colored as its congener *P. Jerdonii*, which is of a more reddish brown, has the four white streaks very distinct, and numerous black spots on the back and sides. The latter species is very common in the plains near the Tumbudra river north of Adoni. I have also found it at Coimbatore, and Dr. Jerdon found it at Mhow, and he has lately sent it me from the Punjab under the name of *Ophiops bivittata*, but he changes this name in his "Notes on Indian Herpetology" (published in the Asiatic Society's Journal) to *Pseudophis Theobaldi*, and states that it differs from *P. Jerdonii* in the post frontals being separated by a small shield, and in the third pair of chin shields forming a suture instead of being separated by small scales; but in my very numerous specimens of *P. Jerdonii*, I find both these differences very general. Dr. Jerdon has established the genus *Pseudophiops* for these Indian species as they differ in having the rostral in a single plate followed by two nasals, instead of between two plates followed by three nasals as in the typical *Ophiops*; he proposes the name of *Beddomii* for this species, but I had already distributed it under the name of *Monticola*.

Fam. Sepsidæ. SEPSOPHIS. *New genus.*

Sepsophis punctatus. (Bedd.) Muzzle rounded, rostral large square behind, nostril in the front of a minute shield in a notch at the hinder side of the rostral plate, and just over the first labial, supra-nasals one large pair contiguous, anterior frontal large, pointed in front and square behind, post-frontal six-sided, vertical similar to the post-frontal, anterior occipitals three, post-occipitals two, very much longer than broad, five large plates over the eye, loreals two, region not concave; six upper labials, fourth under the eye; five lower labials; eye small, lower eye-lid transparent; no external ears; median lower labial large, square behind; first chin shield single, followed by three pair, the first of which form a suture together; scales of the back, sides and belly all equal and similar, smooth, imbricate and rounded behind, in 22 transverse series round the trunk, and thirteen round the tail; two large anal plates; body and tail of nearly equal

thickness throughout, the end of the tail being nearly as thick as the head, and ending with a single rounded shield (perhaps injured and grown over); no external limbs, but a minute fin-like pointed process about half a line long let into a groove at the position where the fore-legs should be, and a depression in the body on each side of the vent, which is occupied by several very small scales; total length nearly six inches, of which the tail is $1\frac{3}{4}$; circumference $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch; above buff with two regular rows of large black spots on the anterior portion of the trunk, eventually running into two regular lines of minute dots, which become four lines towards the end of the tail; sides very black, belly grayish, with black spots on the scales.

A single specimen of this very curious limbless lizard was found at Darakondah on the Golcondah hills near Vizagapatam (elevation 3,000 feet), under a stone: a long search did not reward me with a duplicate example.

Gymnodactylus speciosus. (Bedd.) Of stout form, body finely granular, all the scales being of the same size; scales of the tail larger, of a reddish brown color, with three broad white transverse bands, one across the neck, one across the middle of the back, and one just in front of the hind legs, each being a quarter inch broad, or half the width of the interspaces of ground color, and edged with black; crown of the head white, with six reddish brown blotches, three across the occipital region, the centre one of which is elongated, two across the vertical region, and one on the frontal region; belly uniform whitish, chin beneath blotched or maculated; tail with four transverse white black-edged bands as on the body; femoral or preanal pores none; subcaudals not enlarged; rostral large, grooved behind with two small plates behind it; pupil erect,  shaped; upper labials eight, two last very small; lower labials seven, medial lower labial large, pointed behind, first pair of chin shields rather large, forming a suture behind the medial lower labial, second pair about half the size, total length $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

In a tope near Erode, very rare.

Gymnodactylus Collegalensis. (Bedd.) In every respect as in *Gymnodactylus speciosus*, but with a very different coloration; ground color, pale grayish, with four dark brown 8-shaped marks edged with white across the body, and a transverse band of large spots between each marking;

head with eight irregular dark brown blotches on a light ground; tail with about six 8-shaped transverse blotches, becoming indistinct towards the tip.

Under stones on the lower slopes of the Balarangams in dry forests near Yellundur.

These two lizards agree in every respect, except in coloration, which, however, is very different; they are both most beautifully marked species, and must be very rare. Only a single specimen of each has been obtained, and considerable search and expense has not rewarded me with a duplicate of either.

Gymnodactylus maculatus. (Bedd.) Of stout form, body and tail rather finely granular, some of the scales of the body being rather enlarged, but those of the tail all uniform, no spines, subcaudals enlarged; of a brown color, with regular transverse bands of oblong dark colored spots across the body, and bands across the tail; rostral large grooved behind, with two small plates behind it; seven upper labials, the seventh very minute; nine lower labials, the last 3-4 very minute; lower medial labial large triangularly pointed behind; chin shields 2-3 small pair not forming sutures; pupil round; femoral pores eight on each thigh in two continuous lines, no pores or enlarged scales on the preanal region; toes very long, slender and laterally compressed; total length four inches, of which the tail is $2\frac{1}{4}$.

At Sholakal, the foot of the Sispara ghat, under logs and stones.

Gymnodactylus nebulosus. (Bedd.) A very small species of rather stout form, muzzle short, rounded, body and tail finely granular, many of the scales on the former being enlarged, scales on the latter uniform; subcaudals not enlarged; no spines; no femoral or preanal pores; of a dull brown color, beautifully clouded with irregular dark blotches, which are edged with white. In some specimens the markings are almost obsolete, and in others they form transverse bands; rostral large, grooved behind followed by two small shields; upper labials nine, last two very small; lower labials 8-9, last 2-3 very small; medial lower labial not very large, pointed behind, first pair of chin shields large, and forming a suture behind it; pupil erect, \dagger shaped; total length $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Golcondah hills near Vizagapatam, under stones at 2,000-3,500 feet elevation, rare.

From the Anamallays, I have what I take to be the *Euprepes* (*Tiliqua*) *macularius* of Blyth, it is uniform bronzed olive green above, and white spotted on the sides of the body and tail, each scale 5-keeled, otherwise differing in no way from *Euprepes rufescens*. From the higher ranges of the Balarangams, I have a very beautiful *Euprepes*, it is bronzed olive green above with numerous black spots on the body, particularly on the posterior portion; sides white-dotted, each scale seven keeled, but differing in no other way from *Euprepes rufescens*. I cannot look upon either of these varieties as specifically distinct from *Euprepes rufescens* of Cantor, though they may both rank as varieties, in which case the species must be described as 3-7 keeled. The coloration of my numerous examples of the ordinary three-keeled form are much more varied than what is described by Gunther. In my *Cabrita Jerdoni* (described in the January number of this Journal), the nostrils are in the lower part of single shields, the pair of which meet and form a suture between the rostral and single anterior frontal; behind each nasal plate and in front of the anterior loreal are two very small postnasal plates, the posterior frontals have a very small intermediate shield. I add this additional description as this lizard is not a true *Cabrita*, and will form a new genus between *Cabrita* and *Pseudophiops*, which may be called *Cabritopsis*.

Eumeces Dussumierii. Forty longitudinal rows of scales, eight of which run along the back, 66 transverse series between the axils of the fore and hind legs, those immediately behind the fore legs being very small; belly uniform white; tail red, a black streak running from the axils of the fore legs to the axils of the hind legs; sides with a broad jet black streak, margined with white, commencing at the eye and becoming lost about the middle of the tail, the black color occupying the width of $4-4\frac{1}{2}$ scales; back fulvous with two longitudinal series of black blotches, forming continuous lines on each side of the back; nasals lateral in a single rather square plate, followed by two loreals and one ante-ocular; anterior frontal or intra-nasal single, square in front, pointed behind; post-frontals one pair, square in front and pointed behind; vertical triangular in front, produced into a long point behind between the supra-oculars; supra-ocular region much swollen, and covered with four large plates, the first of which is equal in size to the other three; anterior occipitals two, the two together forming a triangle; post occipi-

tals two, posterior margin much broader than anterior; one intermediate shield; ears large, oval not denticulate, but the anterior margin scaly; some of the subcaudals enlarged; feet with warty excrescences, fourth toe a third longer than the third; upper labials seven, none of which enter the orbit, as there are small scales between them and the eye, sixth labial much the largest; seven lower labials, medial lower labial square behind, followed by a single broad chin shield, behind which again are four pair, the first only of which forms a suture; lower eyelid scaly; total length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of which the tail is four.

This very beautiful species, which has been confounded by Dr. Gunther with *Eumeces Indicus* of Gray, is, I believe, the ? *Lygosoma dussumierii* of Dum and Bibr. I have lately found it in Malabar, at Neliccottah, between Nellumbur and the foot of the Carcoor ghat.

Cecilia Malabarica. Body short, total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, as thick as a goose's quill, terminating in a pointed tail, which is prolonged to about $\frac{1}{7}$ th of an inch beyond the vent; body and tail surrounded by 238 folds, almost every one of which meet under the belly; snout flattened and shelving downwards, subnasal grooves at the edge of the flattened snout below, but rather in front of the nasals.

Malabar—rare, a much smaller species than the common *C. oxyura*, and differing in its snout and the annular rings.

Epicrium carnosum. (Bedd.) Head very much depressed; eyes quite invisible; labial groove much nearer the nasal than the eye; point of tail quite rounded, not prolonged more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a line or a line beyond the vent; annular folds 120, quite continued round the body and belly throughout the whole length; total length seven inches, with a circumference about as thick as a crow's quill; of a uniform bright fleshy color when alive, fading to a reddish brown in spirits.

Peria peak, Wynaad, at an elevation of about 5,000 feet; under stones, rare.

I have lately found the beautiful *Gymnodactylus Deccanensis* of Gunther in South Canara, at Hospet (nearly sea level), and at the top of the Codachy Parwat (5,000 feet). The cross bars are a brilliant yellow, but turn white after the animal is put into spirits; it is evidently a very rare species, as during a tour of more than a month I only obtained two specimens. It has no femoral or preanal pores.
