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## DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW PAPUAN SNAKES.

BY J. DOUGLAS OGILBY.

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### HYPASPISTES, *gen. nov.*

Body very much elongated and compressed; tail of moderate length, rounded, or but slightly compressed anteriorly, prehensile. Head quadrangular, completely shielded, distinct, but not markedly so, from the neck. Snout rather short. Eye of moderate size, the pupil elliptical. Nostril lateral, pierced in a single nasal which is grooved behind. Shields regular, the occipitals increased in number to three pairs; loreal present. Scales smooth, quadrilateral, the vertebral series not dilated.

### HYPASPISTES DIPSADIDES, *sp. nov.*

Scales on the body anteriorly in thirty, posteriorly in twenty-three series; the series bordering the abdominal plates much the largest; abdominal plates three hundred and twenty-seven; anal plate single; sub-caudal plates in two rows of one hundred and seventeen each, preceded by a semicircular band of eleven small scales. Head very distinct from neck. Muzzle of moderate length, broad, very obtuse, and rather depressed; the occiput rounded. Eye lateral, the outer skin rather opaque, the pupil elliptical and erect. Body slender in front, becoming much higher behind. Skin of the throat loose, forming a distinct

longitudinal gular sac. Rostral triangular, deeply pitted, its median height five-sevenths of its breadth, extending backwards for some distance between the anterior frontals, which are small, quadrilateral, and concave behind; two pairs of posterior frontals, the inner pair the larger and forming a narrow suture with the vertical; the latter shield hexagonal, as long as broad, with the lateral edges converging posteriorly; supraciliary large and pentagonal; three pairs of occipital shields, the two anterior pairs transversely oblong and of equal size; the posterior pair of irregular shape and smaller; a number of various sized shields on the temporal region; loreals replaced by from nine to eleven scale-like plates; three pre- and four post-oculars of equal size, with the exception of the upper preocular which is greatly enlarged; twelve upper labials, the four anterior ones pitted, the sixth and seventh entering the eye; sixteen lower labials, the six preceding the last four pitted. Scales on the anterior part of the body elongate and quadrangular, on the posterior larger and rhombic; no enlarged vertebral series. A minute conical rudimentary hind limb. *Colors*—Upper surface of head light brown, the edges of the shields purplish-brown, broadest posteriorly; an oblique dusky band behind the eye; general color of body and tail yellowish with dark brown transverse bands, which are ill-defined and irregular anteriorly, better defined and gradually forming a junction on the under surface of the body posteriorly, and best defined on the tail.

Total length thirty-one and a half inches; tail five and a half inches. Register number R. 1087.

*DENDROPHIS PAPUÆ, sp. nov.*

Scales on the body anteriorly in fifteen, mesially in thirteen, and posteriorly in eleven series; the series bordering the abdominals more distinctly larger in comparison anteriorly than posteriorly; the vertebral series more so posteriorly than anteriorly; abdominal plates one hundred and eighty-three; anal plate single; sub-caudal plates in two rows of one hundred and forty-three each. Head but little defined from trunk. Muzzle very short, broad, truncated, and depressed; occiput depressed. Eye lateral large, the pupil rounded. Body compressed and keeled, the tail much less so. Rostral twice as broad as high, not encroaching on the upper surface of the head; anterior frontals quadrilateral, the lateral margins rounded in front; posterior frontals\* pentagonal, bent down on the sides to form a suture with the loreal, which is large, and pointed posteriorly; vertical shield pentagonal, much broader in front than behind; supraciliary shields forming a sharp ridge overhanging the eye; occipitals large, a little longer than broad, rounded behind; one

\* In the unique specimen this shield is undivided except for about the anterior third of its length, where there is a slight, but distinct, groove.

large preocular forming an angular projection between the posterior frontal and the supraciliary ; two postoculars, the upper the larger ; two pairs of temporals, the lower of the anterior pair much the larger, and completely separating the upper from the posterior pair ; fourth and fifth upper labials entering the eye ; fifth lower labial the largest. *Colors*—Head and body above pale brown, below yellowish-white anteriorly, becoming dirty brown posteriorly ; tail above dark brown, below lighter with a central lead-colored zigzag stripe.

Total length fifty-six inches ; tail eighteen inches. Register number R. 1088.

*DENDROPHIS ELEGANS, sp. nov.*

Scales on the body anteriorly in thirteen, posteriorly in eleven series ; abdominal plates one hundred and eighty-five ; anal plate divided ; subcaudal plates in two rows of one hundred and forty-four each. Head moderately distinct from the neck. Rostral two-thirds broader than high ; loreal oblong, twice as long as high ; supraciliaries swollen, forming a blunt ridge over the eye ; occipitals quadrilateral, squarely cut off behind ; five temporal shields ; fifth and sixth upper labials entering the eye. In all other respects similar to *D. papuae*. *Colors*—Upper surface of head black, the supraciliaries with an orange tinge ; lower surface and greater part of the upper labials cream color ; general color of the upper surface of the body yellowish-brown lighter in front and duller, variously ornamented with black, which predominates on the neck and neighboring part of the body ; mesially the black takes the form of oblique bands from one to two scales in breadth and about five times that distance apart, and encroaching on the belly but not reaching across the abdominal scales ; posteriorly the markings become almost merged in the duller and darker ground color ; belly anteriorly cream color, becoming a greenish lead color posteriorly ; tail very dark brown above, lead color below.

Total length about sixty inches ; tail nineteen inches. Register number R. 1089.

The three Snakes described above were obtained by the collectors of the Royal Geographical Society's Expedition to the Fly River, New Guinea, in 1885.