

NOTES ON SNAKES.

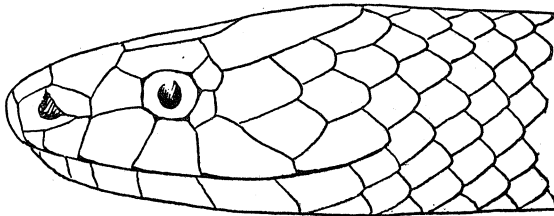
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THE first two snakes below mentioned were included in a small collection made by the Rev. W. G. Ivens in the Solomon Islands. As both differ somewhat from the descriptions of the respective species, opportunity is taken to point out their individual peculiarities. The third note deals with an Australian species whose habitat has been the subject of some uncertainty.

I.—DENISONIA MELANURA, *Boul.*

Hoplocephalus melanurus, Proc. Zool. 1888, p. 88, and 1890, p. 30, pl. ii., fig. 1.

Denisonia melanura, Brit. Mus. Cat. Snakes (2nd ed.) iii., 1896, p. 345.



The most noticeable difference between our specimen of *Denisonia melanura* and those previously described, is to be found in the circumstance that it possesses six upper labials instead of seven. The lost plate occurs between the fifth and the ultimate labials, but fails to reach the mouth, as shown in the accompanying figure. This is perhaps an individual peculiarity and worthy of notice only as such. The frontal, however, is considerably longer than in the British Museum specimens, being as long as the prefrontals and internasals combined, and two-thirds the length of the parietals. The tail is not black as described, but similar in color to the body, likewise crossed by dark bands.

Having but a single example, I hesitate to create a new species. Pending further material, it may for the present be known as:—

Denisonia melanura, var. *boulengeri*.

The scale formula is as follows: Scales in 15 rows, ventrals 170; anal divided; sub-caudals 43. Total length 850 mm.; tail 125 mm.