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NOTES ON SOME REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS  
FROM THE NORTHERN DIVISION OF PAPUA,  
WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES  
OF *APISTHOCALAMUS* AND  
*LYGOSOMA*.

BY

J. R. KINGHORN, C.M.Z.S.,  
Zoologist, The Australian Museum, Sydney.

This paper is based on a small collection of reptiles and batrachians collected by Mr. C. T. McNamara in the Mount Lamington district, Northern Division, Papua, during August and September, 1927, and presented to the Trustees of the Australian Museum, Sydney. The following is a list of the species collected:—

BATRACHIA.

*HYLA NASUTA* Gray.

One typical specimen.

*HYLA INFRAFRENATA* Günther.

Two very large specimens were collected, and some of their characters suggest such a close affinity to *Hyla spengeli* Boulenger, that in all probability an examination of a larger series of these two species would show them to be synonymous. These two *Hylas* together with the following four: *H. sanguineolenta*, *H. humeralis*, *H. militaria*, and *H. aruensis*, form a most interesting group, and a very closely allied one, but unfortunately there is not a large enough series in the Museum collection to enable any work to be done regarding their status.

*HYLOPHORBUS* sp.

Several specimens which appear to belong to this genus were sent by Mr. McNamara to the Sydney University and were later submitted to me for identification. Before their identity can be determined, a closer examination of the skeletal characters will have to be made, and I have requested Mr. McNamara to collect some more specimens for dissection purposes. There appears to be little doubt that it will prove to be a new species.

OPHIDIA.

*ENYGRUS ASPER* Günther.

A well marked, medium sized specimen, having 36 scales round the body and 17 rows of subcaudals.

*ENYGRUS CARINATUS Schneider.*

Two specimens typically marked, and with the following scale rows: (A), 39 scales round the body, 31 subcaudals; (B), 36 scales round the body, 39 subcaudals.

*CHRONDROPHYTHON VIRIDIS Schlegel.*

A beautifully marked specimen 500 mm. in length, of which the tail measures 95 mm., and tapers away to an extremely fine point. The rostral is deeper than broad and bears two deep pits. The first three upper labials are pitted and the 7th and 8th enter the eye. There are sixteen lower labials, the 8th to 13th pitted. Scales in 67 rows, 16 subcaudals. The colour (in spirits) is vivid yellow with chocolate brown spots and cross markings.

*DENDROPHIS CALLIGASTER Günther.*

One typical specimen measuring 680 mm.

*DIPSADOMORPHUS IRREGULARIS Merrem.*

Three specimens, two of which are young and measure 380 and 410 mm. The adult specimen has 21 rows of scales, the internasals are only slightly broader than long, the frontal longer than broad and the posterior chin shields are longer but not larger than the anterior.

*APISTHOCALAMUS LAMINGTONI sp. nov.*

(Figure 1.)

Snout short, broadly rounded. The distance from the eye to the rostral less than the distance between the eyes. Rostral a little broader than deep, the portion visible from above measuring about one-third its distance from the frontal. Internasals broader than

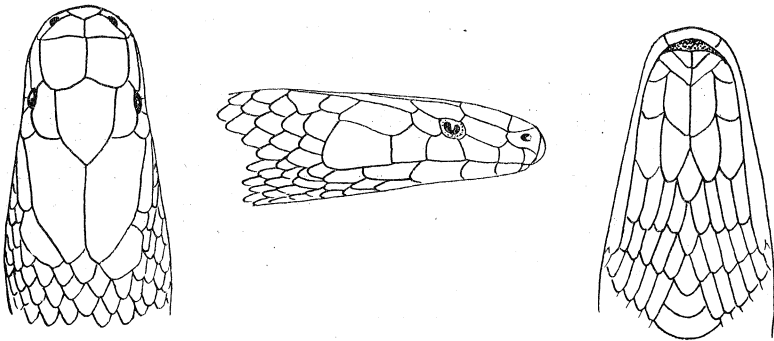


Figure 1.

long, one-half as long as the prefrontals, the latter being longer than broad. Frontal longer than broad, not as long as its distance from the end of the snout, nearly twice as broad as the supraocular, much shorter than the parietal. One postocular, one preocular, the latter twice as long as deep, oblique and in contact with the posterior nasal. Temporals 1 + 2, the anterior one being long and narrow, extending as far back as the posterior border of the sixth upper labial. The lower posterior temporal is very little larger than the surrounding scales. Nostril pierced between two nasals. Six upper labials, the third and fourth entering the eye. Six lower labials, the first pair forming a suture behind the mental, the first four in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are larger than the posterior.

Scales smooth, in 15 rows. Anal single. Ventrals rounded, 173. Subcaudals in 46 pairs, plus a spine-like one on the tip of the tail. Total ventrals and subcaudals, 219.

Colour (in spirits): Blackish brown above, yellowish below. Lower labials mottled with brown, the fifth and sixth upper labials yellowish on the lower half. Subcaudals yellowish anteriorly, the posterior ones being dark with yellow edges. Total length 420 mm., tail 78 mm.

Holotype in the Australian Museum, registered number R 9351.

Two very young specimens do not vary from the holotype except that the frontal is somewhat squarer, this being due to the young specimens being more symmetrical. In colour marking there is a striking difference; there is a conspicuous yellowish nuchal collar, as in some species of *Pseudelaps*, there being more "collar" in the smaller specimen. The following are the respective measurements: (A), 190 mm., 15 scale rows, 1 anal, 186 ventrals, 30 paired subcaudals, total 216; (B), 165 mm., 15 scale rows, 1 anal, 193 ventrals, 28 paired subcaudals, total 221.

Registered number, R 9352.

All the specimens are from the Mount Lamington district, Northern Division, Papua.

## LACERTILIA.

### LYGOSOMA LORIAE *Boulenger*.

This species was described from three specimens collected at Moroka, S.E. New Guinea, in 1889-1892. As very few have been discovered since, it might be considered a rare species, and I am fortunate in having four specimens in the collection before me. It is a typical mountain form, the types being collected 2,300 feet above sea level in the Bartholomew Range. There are slight variations from the original description, as might be expected. Two small

specimens, 75 mm. in length, are typical, but the two large ones vary somewhat; in one the prefrontals are separated, in the other they form a short suture, and there are several enlarged scales (nuchals) bordering the parietals. In other characters and colour markings these agree perfectly with published descriptions of the species.

*LYGOSOMA IRIDESCENS* *Boulenger.*

Two specimens are in the collection.

*LYGOSOMA MUELLERI* *Schlegel.*

Mr. McNamara informs me that the native name for this species is "Omu."

I have two specimens from Mount Lamington, measuring about 380 mm. from snout to tip of tail. They are intermediate in colour between *L. muelleri* and *L. muelleri* var. *latifasciatum* Meyer. The general body colour and markings are those of the former, while the sides of the tail are barred alternately with yellowish and brown. The face, chin, and throat are blackish, as also are the palms of the hands and feet. The fronto-nasal shield is broader than long, forming a narrow suture with the rostral and just tipping the frontal.

*LYGOSOMA (LIOLEPISMA) PAPUAE* *sp. nov.*

(Figure 2.)

Lower eyelid with a transparent disk. Ear opening vertical, smaller than the eye opening and without lobules. Nostril in a large nasal, no supranasals. Fronto-nasal broader than deep, in contact with the rostral. Prefrontals forming a suture on the median line. Frontal V-shaped, longer than broad, longer than its

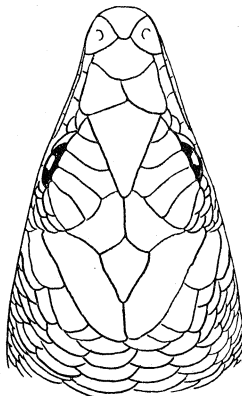


Figure 2.

distance from the end of the snout. Fronto-parietals and inter-parietal distinct, all about equal in size. Parietals in contact posteriorly. Six supraoculars, the first three joining the frontal shield. Nine supracilliaris. Two pairs of nuchals or enlarged scales bordering the parietals. Eight upper labials, the sixth below the eye. Body scales smooth, in 36 rows, dorsals enlarged. Anals hardly enlarged. The forelimb stretched forwards reaches the eye, the adpressed limbs meet. The distance between the snout and the forelimb is contained once and one-third between the axilla and the groin. Digits compressed laterally, with 21 lamellæ under the fourth toe.

Colour: Dark brown above, with irregular, thin, wavy, cross bands, many of which are broken in the centre. The sides of the head, lips and body are mottled with lighter colour. There are fourteen crossbands between the head and the tail, and seventeen on the tail.

Holotype from Mount Lamington district, Northern Division, Papua; Australian Museum registered number R 9357.

*VARANUS INDICUS Daudin.*

A well marked young specimen, with no variation from the typical. Total length 480 mm., tail 280 mm.

*GYMNODACTYLUS PELAGICUS Girard.*

Two specimens typical in all structural characters, but extremely dark brown in colour, with almost black angular markings on the dorsal surface.

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