

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Waite, Edgar R., 1905. Occasional notes. II. *Pseudaphritis urvillii*, Cuvier & Valenciennes, a fish new to western New South Wales. *Records of the Australian Museum* 6(1): 38–39. [15 June 1905].

doi:10.3853/j.0067-1975.6.1905.1548

ISSN 0067-1975

Published by the Australian Museum, Sydney

nature culture **discover**

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OCCASIONAL NOTES.

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I.—CLIMBING HABITS OF AN AUSTRALIAN SNAKE.

Mr. Percy G. Peard, of the Public School, Dalwood, New South Wales, recently forwarded some snakes for identification from the vicinity of Lismore, Richmond River.

Respecting *Hoplocephalus stephensii*, Krefft, Mr. Peard writes:—
“I neglected to mention, in describing the ‘Banded specimen,’ that it was caught climbing an ironbark tree.”

This is an extremely interesting observation, and confirms any suspicion one may have had as to the use of the notched keels of the ventral plates.

When describing the species, Krefft drew attention to the similarity in structure to members of the genus *Dendrophis*. Mr. Peard’s happy remark shows that the structural peculiarity has been independently developed for tree-climbing purposes in two widely different genera of reptiles.

In future, therefore, *Hoplocephalus stephensii*, *H. bitorquatus*, and, perhaps in a lesser degree, *H. bungaroides*, should be regarded as partially arboreal in habit.

EDGAR R. WAITE.

II.—*PSEUDAPHRITIS URVILLII*, CUVIER & VALENCIENNES, A FISH NEW TO WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES.

As this fish is known from South Australia, it might naturally be assumed to occur in the western waters of our State.

Dr. C. C. Cocks, of Wentworth, Darling River, has forwarded a specimen to the Trustees for identification, remarking that it was caught by one of the oldest fishermen of the district, who had never seen its like before. To Dr. Cocks, himself an angler of

the locality for thirty years, the fish was a novelty. It was taken in the Murray River, about a quarter of a mile below its junction with the Darling River, and is a new record for our western fauna.

Originally described from Tasmania, the species is also known from South Australia, Victoria, and the southern rivers of New South Wales.

Ogilby¹ suggests that *Pseudaphritis urvillii* is identical with *Eleginus bursinus*, Cuvier and Valenciennes, said to have been taken in Port Jackson, in which case the name would be *Pseudaphritis bursinus*.

EDGAR R. WAITE.

¹ Ogilby—Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, xxii., 1898, p. 560.