

# STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN REPTILES.

No. 3.<sup>1</sup>

BY

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## ON THE GENERA AND SPECIES OF OPHIOSEPS AND APRASIA.

For the purposes of this revision I have had the opportunity, through the generosity of the Trustees of the Western Australian Museum, of examining a series of eleven specimens belonging to the genus *Aprasia*, and also the type of *Ophioseps repens* Fry<sup>2</sup>, in addition to fourteen specimens preserved in the Australian Museum. In the absence of specimens of the genotypes *Ophioseps nasutus* Bocage and *Aprasia pulchella* Gray, I have had to rely entirely on published descriptions and figures of these species, but all the supposed *Ophioseps* spp. which I have been able to examine, including Fry's type, really belong to the genus *Aprasia*<sup>3</sup>.

### GENERIC CHARACTERS.

The series examined ranges from young specimens to adults. In some premaxillary teeth are present, while in others they are absent; some have long snouts, while others have broad short ones; and the number of longitudinal rows of scales varies from 12 to 14.

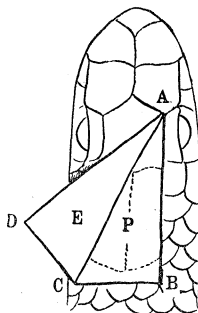


Fig. 1.

Make a clean cut through the skin, following the lateral border of the frontal shield from point A and extend to B. A second cut must be made from B to C, and a very fine scalpel inserted horizontally under point B and worked carefully back and forth until the loose flap of skin E can be turned back to D. The parietal bones P can then be easily examined.

<sup>1</sup> For No. 2, see "Records," xiii, 4, 1921, p. 143.

<sup>2</sup> Fry—Records W. Austr. Mus., i, 3, 1914, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> Fry's mistake seems to have occurred through his misinterpreting the term *parietal plates*; he evidently referred to the head shields instead of the bones.