

Xiphigorgia juncea Horn.*Gorgonia juncea* Pallas, Elench. Zoop. 1766, p. 180.

Ellis, Nat. Hist. Zooph. 1786, p. 81.

Lamouroux, Anim. Sans. Vert. 1816, p. 320.

Lamouroux, Polyp. Flex. 1816, p. 419.

Dana, Zoop. U. S. Exp. 1848, p. 664.

Xiphigorgia setacea Edwards, Coralliaires, 1857, p. 172.*Xiphigorgia setacea* Horn.*Gorgonia setacea* Pallas op. cit. p. 182.

Lamouroux, op. cit. p. 421.

Lamouroux, op. cit. Deux. Edit. ii. p. 502.

Pterogorgia setacea Dana, op. cit. p. 653.*Xiphigorgia simplex* Horn.*Pterogorgia simplex* Gorg. Comptes Rendus, xli. p. 13.

Rainer Schulte

Diplom-Biologe

Fachrichtung Zoologie

Robert-Bosch-Straße 13

7303 Neuhausen

Telefon 07158-6910

→ *Phyllolites truncatus*

Descriptions of Reptiles from Tropical America and Asia.

BY E. D. COPE.

SIDEROLAMPREUS Cope.

Scales smooth, toes 5-5. Palatine teeth none. Lower eyelid covered with large scales. Nostril in the centre of an elongate nasal plate. Two pairs of supranasals, contiguous. Internasal present, fronto-nasals absent. Frontal in contact with the interparietal, thus separating the fronto-parietals. Parietals small, widely separated by the broad occipital. Tail cylindrical.

This genus of skinks is most nearly allied to *Eumeces* and *Otosaurus*, but may be distinguished by the presence of two pairs of supranasals, and absence of fronto-nasal.

S. KNEGRAMMUS Cope.

Vertical plate elongate, broadest posteriorly, the lateral borders very concave. Palpebral plates five. Tail longer than the head and body. Color above glossy black, shading into ultramarine blue about the middle of the tail. A delicate line of the latter color occupies the centre of each of the central nine rows of dorsal scales. These are all discontinued upon the occiput, except the external one upon each side, which passes round the side of the head and meets its fellow upon the muzzle. The palpebral and supranasal plates are suffused with blue, and delicately bordered with black. Beneath dirty white, shaded with blue upon the abdomen and tail. Length of head and body to vent, 15 lines; of tail (mutilated) 16 lines.

This beautiful little skink was discovered by Sr. Rafael M. De Oca, in the vicinity of Jalapa, Mexico, and obtained for the Academy by Dr. Thomas B. Wilson.

TARIDONOTUS COMPSOLEMUS Cope.

Scales in nineteen longitudinal rows, all keeled. Head distinct, short, deep; profile anteriorly descending. Rostral plate twice as broad as high. Prefrontals subtriangular; loreal longer than high. One rather narrow preocular; postoculars three, the lowest very small. Vertical and superciliaries elongate; lateral borders of the former scarcely converging; the latter narrow. Superior labials eight, fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Inferior labials nine. Tail slender, slightly compressed at the base, three-tenths of the total length. Gastrosteges 126; a divided anal; urosteges 67. Total length 16 inches; of tail 3 in. 6 lin.

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broad band of the same bordered with yellow, crosses the closed femora, tibia and tarsi. A similar one crosses the fore-arm. Upper lip varied with yellow; a band of the same, extending from the angle of the mouth to the shoulder. Under surface of the belly and extremities, saffron yellow, with some irregular medial spots of an orange bay color.

Length from muzzle to end of coccyx 1 inch, 2½ lines. Femur from coccyx 6½ lines, tibia nearly 7 lines.

Habitat. Ceylon. Mus. Acad. Nat. Sciences. From Mr. H. Cuming, in ex.

PHYLLOBATES TRUNCATUS Cope.

Skin above and below smooth, except some faint granulations upon the posterior part of the abdomen. Tongue small, linear, entire. Tarsus nearly as long as the middle digit. Front and canthus rostralis convex. Muzzle concave truncate, elevated; nostrils lateral. Tympanum very near the eye, less than half its size.

Coloration. Upper and lower surfaces of head, body and extremities a dark ferruginous maroon. A pale, curved line upon each side; beneath this another one, which unites with its fellow upon the anterior part of the abdomen. From this point of junction a medial band takes its rise, and bifurcates posteriorly. A pair of parallel lines upon the throat, which unite anteriorly, following the curve of the mandible. Extremities sparsely and irregularly spotted with the same faint shade.

Habitat.? New Grenada. Mus. Academy. From the Philadelphia Museum, in exchange.

The species of this genus hitherto described, are *P. bicolor* Bibron, from Cuba, *P. melanorrhinus* Berthold, from New Granada, and *P. auratus* Girard, from Chili.

SPELTERES BELLI Gray.

"*Oedipus platydaetylus* Tschudi." Baird, Journal Acad. Nat. Sci., Philada. 2d ser. vol. i. pp. 282-286, January, 1850. (Not of Tschudi.)

Spelteres Belli Gray, Catalogue Amphibia in Brit. Mus., p. 43, June, 1850.

Bolitoglossa Mexicana Duméril, (pars), Exp. Gen., vol. ix., p. 93, 1854. (Exclus. all the synonymy). Pl. 105, fig. 2.

"*Salamandra togata* Valenciennes, Mus. Paris." Duméril.

Specimens of this fine Salamander are now in possession of the Academy and of the Smithsonian Institute, which were brought from Jalapa, Mexico, by the well known collector, Sr. De Oca. Though it is a species apparently well known in European collections, considerable confusion exists with regard to the synonymy. This it is the object of the present article to set right as far as the means at the author's disposal may enable him to accomplish it.

The first published notice of this species is probably that of Professor S. F. Baird, in his valuable "Revision of the North American Tailed Batrachia," as above cited. He supposed it to be the *Oedipus platydaetylus* of Tschudi, as it appears to me incorrectly, though the meagre diagnosis of that author renders any identification sufficiently hazardous. The name at the head of this article is that of Dr. J. E. Gray, whose description in the "Catalogue of Batrachia Gradientia in the British Museum," no doubt, applies to this species. It is the first name published with an appropriate specific diagnosis, and therefore is adopted here. Dr. Gray was, however, not aware that to the present species belongs the synonymy and notice of the structure of the toes, quoted from Baird, under the genus *Oedipus* of the "Catalogue." That this is the case, I have upon the excellent authority of Prof. Baird himself, who states that the appearance of "sucker-like discs upon the extremities of the toes, similar to those of *Hyla*," resulted from the contraction of the integuments about the proximal phalanges, in an old specimen, thus giving prominence to the small tubercle upon the inferior surface of the extremity of each toe. The *Oedipus* of Gray appears to be the *Oedipus* of Tschudi, but I have seen neither specimens nor descriptions which correspond with that of his *O. variegatus*.

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