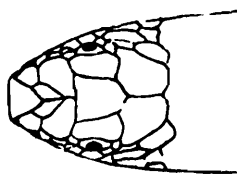
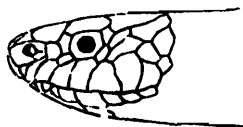


## MISCELLANEA

### REPTILES.

REMARKS ON *Simotes splendidus*.—I am indebted to Dr. N. Annandale for the privilege of examining a rare snake, *Simotes splendidus*, from Kyaukse, Upper Burma.

For many years this species was only known from a single specimen in the British Museum described by Günther in 1875.<sup>1</sup> This specimen was captured in the Wynaad. In 1900, Major (then Captain) Evans and I acquired the head and neck of a snake from Sagaing, Upper Burma, which we referred to this species with some hesitation, firstly, from the fact that there were four præfrontals in a transverse series as well as four internasals, secondly, the great distance separating the locality that produced the type-specimen, and that in which our example was obtained; and thirdly, owing to the imperfect character of this specimen. We published some remarks on this example.<sup>2</sup> Later Major Evans procured two perfect specimens of what appeared obviously the same species as that just referred to. These were both obtained in Upper Burma (the Ruby Mines and Yamethin District). These examples were remarked upon by Major Evans in the *Bombay Natural History Journal*,<sup>3</sup> and he expressed the opinion that the specimen agreed with Mr. Boulenger's description of the type-specimen.<sup>4</sup>



Head of *Simotes splendidus*, nat. size.

As Major Evans does not describe his specimens, and Upper Burma is so far removed from the Wynaad, I think a further description and figure of Dr. Annandale's lately acquired specimen may serve to clear up any doubt in identity.

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<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1875, p. 231, and plate xxiii.

<sup>2</sup> *Bom. Nat. Hist. Journ.*, vol. xliii, p. 537.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. xvi, p. 362.

<sup>4</sup> *Fauna Brit. Ind., Reptilia*, 1890, p. 310.

Length about 2 feet (stiffened by spirit), the tail  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches. Costals two headlengths behind head 21, midbody 21, two headlengths before vent 17. In the step from 21 to 19 the second and third rows above the ventrals coalesce on the left side, and the third disappears on the right side; in the step from 19 to 17, the fourth and fifth rows above the ventrals coalesce. The last row is not or barely enlarged. No keels and no apical pits. Ventrals: 169, angulate. Anal entire. Subcaudals: 41, divided. Rostral: in contact with eight shields, the sutures made with the anterior nasals rather largest; portion visible above equals its distance to the frontal. Internasals: four, subequal, in a transverse series, the median projected backwards so as to separate about two-thirds of the length of the præfrontals. Præfrontals: a pair; the suture between them about half the præfronto-frontal suture; in contact with median and lateral internasals, postnasal, loreal, præocular, supraocular and frontal. Frontal: touches six shields, the sutures made with the supraoculars largest, about one-third greater than those with the parietals, which are the smallest. Supraoculars: length subequal to frontal, breadth two-thirds frontal. Nasals: divided in contact with 1st and 2nd labial by equal sutures, the posterior subdivided into two superposed parts; the anterior is much the largest; the nostril occupies the upper two-thirds of the suture, the suture runs to the 2nd labial. Loreal: one, height rather exceeds length. Præoculars: two, the lower small and cuneate, wedged between the 3rd and 4th labials. Postoculars: two. Temporals: two, the lower in contact with the 6th and 7th labials. Labials: eight, the 4th and 5th touching the eye, the 6th and 7th largest, and subequal. Infralabials: five, the 5th largest, broader than the posterior sublingual and in contact with the scales posteriorly; the suture between the first about half that between the anterior sublingual fellows. Anterior sublinguals: longer than posterior. Posterior sublinguals: touching the 4th and 5th infralabials. Colour: light stone colour with sixteen large, dark dorsal marks, indented before and behind vertebally, and midcostally. In the latter region the indentations sometimes meet, and detach fragments. These marks are well defined with darker margins. A pale vertebral streak, and a pale vertebral supracaudal streak. Head obscurely mottled above. Belly whitish with somewhat obscure, lateral, dark roundish spots with a tendency to be distributed on alternate ventrals. Tail beneath whitish, unspotted.

It is very unusual for the suture from the nostril to run to the 2nd labial in land snakes. It does so in the genus *Callophis*, but I cannot recall another instance. In the sea snakes (*Hydrophiidæ*) it is the rule, and has very few exceptions.

The head was badly damaged, so that the head outlines may be somewhat faulty, but the relationship of shields is accurate.

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