

REPORT ON A COLLECTION OF REPTILE FAUNA  
FROM SIMLA HILLS, HIMACHAL PRADESH

*By*

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Since very little is known about the reptile fauna of Simla Hills, an attempt has been made here to place on record the varied forms of lizards and snakes available in the area. The earliest report on herpetological researches in Himalayas (Sikkim and Nepal) and Assam was first published by Blyth<sup>2</sup> (1851). Subsequently Günther<sup>3</sup> (1861) and Wall<sup>7, 8</sup> (1907, 1911) published few papers on the subject and casually dealt with some reptilian collection of the Western Himalayas. Hora and Chopra<sup>4</sup> (1923) made some taxonomical studies of Batrachia and Reptilia of the salt range, Punjab. Acharji and Kriplani<sup>1</sup> (1952) studied a collection of few species of reptilia and batrachia from Kangra and Kulu Valleys, Western Himalaya. Smith<sup>5, 6</sup> (1935, 1943) has recorded some species of lizards and snakes from this region in Fauna of India volumes.

The present report is on a collection made from various localities of Simla Hills. (Districts of Bilaspur, Simla, Sirmour and Solan) during October, 1968 to September, 1973 by the various tour parties from High Altitude Zoology Field Station,

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<sup>1</sup> Acharji, M. N. & Kripalani, M. B. 1952. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 49 (2) : 175-184.

<sup>2</sup> Blyth, E. 1851. *J. asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 20 : 523.

<sup>3</sup> Günther, A. 1861. *Proc. zool. Soc.*, London : 1-8.

<sup>4</sup> Hora, S. L. & Chopra, B. 1923. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 25 (4) : 269-76.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, M. A. 1953. Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma. Reptilia and Amphibia, 2, Sauria, xiii+440 : 1, pl., 2 maps.—London (Taylor and Francis).

<sup>6</sup> Smith, M. A. 1943. Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Reptilia and Amphibia, 3, Serpentes, xii+583 : 1 map.—London (Taylor and Francis).

<sup>7</sup> Wall, F. 1907. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 1 : 149-158.

<sup>8</sup> Wall, F. 1911. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 21 : 201-202.

Solan. Altogether 5 genera and 8 species of lizards and 12 genera and 19 species of snakes are reported. These represent further augmentation in the number of genera and species of lizards and snakes so far known from this region. Out of the 27 forms recorded here only 5 of lizards and 5 of snakes are on earlier records, the remaining (marked with an asterisk) are first records from the area.

Himachal Pradesh is the part of the Indian Union where, one finds a common meeting place of two faunal elements *viz.*, Palaearctic and Oriental. Where ever could have been possible, brief ecological observations and distribution is recorded under respective species.

#### *Abbreviations used*

Dist.—District; Coll.—Collector; Ex(s)—Example(s); Mm.—Millimetre; V.—Ventrals; C.—Caudals; A.—Anals; Alt.—Altitude.

#### SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

##### Family GEKKONIDAE

#### 1. \**Hemidactylus reticulatus* Beddome (The Rock Gecko)

1870. *Hemidactylus reticulatus*, Beddome, *Madras Month. J. med. Sci.*, 1: 33.

1971. *Hemidactylus reticulatus*, Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 63: 82.

*Material*.—1 ex., Dharampur (Solan distt.), 22.iv.1972, Coll.: M. Chandra.

*Remarks*.—The specimen was collected from rocky area under a stone.

*Measurements*.—Total length, 106 mm.; standard length 66 mm.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh (first record): As above.

#### 2. \**Hemidactylus triedrus* (Daudin) (The Daudin's Hemidactylus Lizard)

1802. *Gecko triendrus* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, iv: 155.

1971. *Hemidactylus triedrus*: Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 63: 82.

*Material*.—1 ex., Gambhar bridge (Solan distt.), 7.ix.1971. Coll.: H. P. Agrawal. 1 ex., Nainatikkar (Sirmour distt.), 28.vii.1972. Coll.: M. Chandra.

*Remarks.*—Total length, 59-111 mm.; standard length, 36-51 mm.

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh (first record) : As above.

### 3. *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray

(The house lizard or the house Gecko)

1845. *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray, *Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.*, : 153.

1971. *Hemidactylus brooki* : Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, **63** : 81.

*Material.*—2 exs., Swarghat (Bilaspur distt.), 21.viii.1972. Coll. : K. K. Mahajan.

*Remarks.*—It is reported that the House Gecko occurs not only in houses, but also quite away from buildings below stones in rocky area. Size : Length 125 mm. ; standard length 55 mm.

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh (first record) : As above.

## Family AGAMIDAE

### 4. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)

(Garden lizard : Bloodsucker)

1802. *Agama versicolor* : Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, III : 395, pl. xlix.

1972. *Calotes versicolor* : Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, **63** : 83.

*Material.*—1 ex., Saproon (Solan distt.), 14.iv.1969. Coll. : R. Kumar. 1 ex., Sadhupul (Solan distt.), 18.xi.1969. Coll. : M. Chandra. 1 ex., Sadhupul (Solan distt.), 18.v.1971. Coll. : K. K. Mahajan. 1 ex., Kasumpti (Simla distt.), 25.iv.1972. Coll. : H. P. Agrawal. 1 ex., Jakoo Hills (Simla distt.), 23.v.1972. Coll. : H. P. Agrawal. 1 ex., Saproon (Solan distt.), 25.vii.1972. Coll. : M. R. Maikhuri. 1 ex., Gohal Village (Bilaspur distt.), 16.vii.1972. Coll. : K. K. Mahajan.

*Remarks.*—*Calotes versicolor* is found on bushes and bare rocks. It is very much dreaded as a poisonous lizard. It is quite abundant during rainy season and proverbial colour manifestation of this lizard (Girgit) is on its best during this period. Total length, 145-342 mm. ; standard length 49-112 mm.

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh. As above.

### 5. *Agama tuberculata* Gray

1827. *Agama tuberculata* : Gray, *zool. J.*, III : 218.

1951. *Agama tuberculata* : Acharji and Kripalani, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, XLIX (2) : 178.

*Material.*—1 ex. ; Rajgarh (Sirmour distt.), 3.ix.1970. Coll. :

*M. Chandra*. 5 exs., Sarahan (Sirmour distt.), 29.vii.1972. Coll.: *M. Chandra*.

*Remarks.*—Dodsworth<sup>1</sup> (1913) has mentioned that the breeding period of this species commences from the month of May and continues to the early part of August. During severe winter, they hibernate but some of them are occasionally seen basking in the sun on the bare rocks. In the summer months they are found in abundance. They live in holes and crevices in rocks. Total length, 221-421 mm.; standard length, 70-135 mm.

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

### 6. *Agama agrorensis* (Stoliczka)

1972. *Stellio agrorensis*: Stoliczka, *Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, p. 128.

1951. *Agama agrorensis*: Acharji and Kripalani, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, XLIX (2): 179.

*Material.*—1 ex., Arki (Solan distt.), 16.ix.1970. Coll.: *M. Chandra*. 1 ex., Nangal Bhakra (Bilaspur distt.), 29.vii.1972. Coll.: *K. K. Mahajan*.

*Remarks.*—According to Smith (1935) *A. agrorensis* has no doubt been derived from more widely distributed species *tuberculata*, and has progressed along the same lines. Total length, 345 mm.; standard length, 111 mm.

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

### Family SCINCIDAE

### 7 \**Mabuya carinata* (Schneider) (The Brahmini lizard)

1801. *Scincus carinata*: part., Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, 11: 183.

1971. *Mabuya carinata*: Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 63: 84.

*Material.*—1 ex., Shoghi (Simla distt.), 11.ix.1970. Coll.: *M. Chandra*. 1 ex., Kasouli (Solan distt.), 20.ii.1971. Coll.: *H. P. Agrawal*. 1 ex., Kasouli (Solan distt.), 24.vi.1971. Coll.: *M. Chandra*. 1 ex., Naina Devi (Bilaspur distt.), 22.iv.1972. Coll.: *M. Chandra*. 3 exs., Chhob (Simla distt.), 18.viii.1972. Coll.: *H. P. Agrawal*.

*Remarks.*—Total length, 61-77 mm.; standard length 35-37 mm.

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh (first record): As above.

<sup>1</sup> Dodsworth, P. T. L. 1913. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 22: 40.

Family VARANIDAE

8. **Varanus bengalensis** Boulenger

(The common Monitor Lizard)

1885. *Varanus bengalensis* : Boulenger, *Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.*, ii : 310.  
 1935. *Varanus bengalensis* : Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 2, Sauria : 402-403.

*Material*.—1 ex., Solan, 15.vii.1972. Coll. : Purchased. 1 ex., Saproon Khud (Solan distt.), 25.vi.1973. Coll. : M. R. Maikhuri.

*Remarks*.—Total length, 1350-1520 mm.; standard length, 511-555 mm. One of the specimen was found in the bushes. It was found digging the soil with its forelegs, and eating the earthworms.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

Suborder SERPENTS

Family TYPHLOPIDAE

9. \***Typhlops porrectus** Stoliczka

1871. *Typhlops parrectus* : Stoliczka, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xi : 426.  
 1843. *Typhlops porrectus* : Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes. p. 46.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan district, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 22.v.1971. Coll. : M. R. Maikhuri.

*Remarks*.—Blackish-brown above, paler below; snout, chin and anal region whitish. Snout rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils lateral; breadth of rostral 1/3 that of the head nasal incompletely divided; tail ending in a fine point. 18 scales round the body.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

10. \***Typhlops braminus** (Daudin)

1803. *Eryx braminus* : Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, vii : 279.  
 1971. *Typhlops braminus* : Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 63 : 86.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan distt., Alt. 1513.41 meters, 28.iv.1969. Coll. : R. Kumar.

*Remarks*.—Brownish-black above, lighter below; snout, anal-region and end of tail whitish. 20 scales round the body. This is a common blind snake with which earthworms are invariably confused by the local people. It can be easily collected during rainy season beneath the flat stones, flower-pots, logs of wood etc., which afford shelter to this defenceless and harmless serpent.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

## Family COLUBRIDAE

## Subfamily COLUBRINAE

11. \**Coluber fasciolatus* Shaw  
(Banded racer)1802. *Coluber fasciolatus*: Shaw, *Gen. Zool.*, iii: 528.1971. *Coluber fasciolatus*: Agrawal, *J. zool. Soc. India*, 22: 43.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 7.vii.1970. Coll.: T. R. Sharma. 2 exs., Gambhar bridge, Solan District, Alt. 1485 meters, 18.ix.1971. Coll.: H. P. Agrawal.

*Remarks*.—Snout strongly projecting, head feebly distinct from neck; rostral large; 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales smooth, in 21 rows. A plucky and vicious snake, when molested it erects itself, and flattens the body behind the neck like a cobra, for which it is sometimes mistaken (Wall<sup>1</sup>, 1914).

12. \**Elaphe prasina* (Blyth)  
(Green tree Racer)1854. *Coluber prasinus*: Blyth, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xxiii: 291.1943. *Elaphe prasina*: Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 143.

*Material*.—1 ex., Solan, Alt. 1521 meters, 20.v.1973. Coll.: Sant Ram.

*Remarks*.—Green above, the interstitial skin with black and white reticulations; upper hip and lower parts greenish-white. Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye; internasals nearly as long as the prefrontals; 9 subpralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye. Scales in 19 rows, faintly keeled, except the outer 3 rows. V. 195; C. 94; A. single.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

13. \**Oligodon albocinctus* (Cantor)1839. *Corossella albocincta*: Cantor, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, London, p. 50.1943. *Oligodon albocinctus*: Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 202.

*Material*.—1 ex., Kasouli, Solan District, Alt. 1650 meters, 22.xii.1972. Coll.: H. P. Agrawal.

*Remarks*.—Brown above with black cross-bars. 7 supra-

<sup>1</sup> Wall, F. 1914. A popular treatise of the common Indian snakes. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 23 (1): 34-43.

labials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal. V 182; C. 43.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

14. \**Oligodon arnensis* (Shaw)  
(Kukri Snake)

1802. *Coluber arnensis* : Shaw, *Gen. zool.*, iii : 526.

*Material*.—1 ex., Simla, Alt. 2000 meters, 10.iv.1969. Coll. : R. Kumar. 1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 20.v.1971. Coll. : M. Chandra.

*Remarks*.—Light brown above with black cross-bars; whitish below; head with 3 chevron-shaped marks. Hemipenis not forked, it is spinose. Seven Supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye. Scales in 17 rows. V 186; C. 49; A. 2. It is an active, voracious little reptile; chiefly diurnal, it can inflate its body to a remarkable degree when excited. It appears to make its home for the most part in masonry, domiciling itself in Bungalows and out houses.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

15. \**Oligodon cyclurus* (Contor)

1839. *Coronella cyclura* : Contor, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, London, p. 50.

1943. *Oligodon cyclurus* : Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 202.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 28.x.1972. Coll. : T R. Sharma.

*Remarks*.—Brownish above; with black reticulations, uniform whitish below. 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; a small subocular below the preocular. Scales in 21 rows. V 211; C. 49.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

16. \**Oligodon taeniatus* (Günther)

1861. *Simotes taeniatus* : Günther, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, London, p. 189.

1943. *Oligodon taeniatus* : Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 208.

*Material*.—1 ex., Taradevi, Simla District. Alt. 1800 meters, 10.iv.1972. Coll. : H. P. Agrawal.

*Remarks*.—Brown above, with our dark longitudinal stripes; whitish below. 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 17 rows. V. 152; C. 35.

17    \***Ptyas mucosus** (Linnaeus)  
(Oriental Rat Snake)

1758. *Coluber mucosus*: Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, 10th Edition, p. 226.

1971. *Ptyas mucosus*: Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 63: 87.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 25.ii.1969. Coll.: R. K. Bhatnagar. 1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, 5.vii.1970. Coll.: K. R. Thakur.

*Remarks*.—Blackish brown above with black cross-bars on the posterior half of the body; yellowish-white below, the scales edged with black. Nostril large, between two nasals; internasal shorter than the prefrontals; 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales in 17 rows; smooth. V. 195; C. 110; A. 2. Locally it is known as "Dhaman".

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

18.    **Lycodon striatus** (Shaw)

1902. *Coluber striatus*: Shaw, *Gen. zool.*, iii: 527.

1971. *Lycodon striatus*: Tiwari and Sharma, *J. zool. Soc. India*, 22: 112.

*Material*.—1 ex., Kiartu, Sirmour District, Alt. 1460 meters, 5.xi.1971. Coll.: M. Chandra.

*Remarks*.—Brownish above with cross-bars; on the posterior part the bars are narrower and closer; lower part whitish in colour. Snout projecting; loreal in contact with internasal, not touching the eye; 8 supralabials; scales in 17 rows, smooth. V. 167; C. 48; A. 2. It is timid in disposition.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

19.    \***Natrix modesta** (Günther)

1876. *Tropidonotus modestus*: Günther, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, London, p. 232.

1943. *Natrix modesta*: Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 290.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 7.ix.1970. Coll.: L. S. Verma.

*Remarks*.—Brownish above with small black spots; lower parts whitish, the margins edged with black. A yellow stripe in each side of the head, starting from behind the eye and converging towards its fellow on the neck. Nostrils lateral; internasals as long as the prefrontals; 9 supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye. Scales in 19 rows, keeled. V. 154; C. 110; A. 2.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.



20. \**Natrix nuchalis* (Boulenger)

1891. *Tropidonotus nuchalis*: Boulenger, *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (6) vii: 281.

1943. *Natrix nuchalis*: Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 284.

*Material*.—1 ex., Nahra, Sirmour District, Alt. 1800 meters, 1.vii.1972. Coll.: M. Chandra.

*Remarks*.—Olivaceous above, pale greenish below. The scales on each side of nuchal groove enlarged and paired. Nostrils lateral; internasals truncate anteriorly; 1 preocular; 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th longest. Scales in 17 rows, keeled except the outer row, which is smooth. V 153; C. 57.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

21. *Natrix piscator* (Schneider)

(The Checkered—Keelback)

1799. *Hydrus piscator*: Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, 1: 247.

1971. *Natrix piscator*: Tiwari and Sharma, *J. zool. Soc. India*, 22: 113.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 11.xii.1972. Coll.: T. R. Sharma. 1 ex., right bank of Yamuna River, Paonta, Sirmour District, 17.ix.1973. Coll.: H. P. Agrawal.

*Remarks*.—Olivaceous above, with black spots quincuncially arranged, belly whitish. Two oblique black streaks, one below the other behind the eye. Nostrils directed slightly upwards; internasals much narrowed anteriorly, as long as the prefrontals 1 preocular; 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales in 19 rows. V 138; C. 87.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

22. \**Natrix stolata* (Linnaeus)

(Striped Keelback)

1758. *Coluber stolatus*: Linn., *Syst. Nat.*, 10th Ed., 219.

1971. *Natrix stolata*: Agrawal, *J. zool. Soc. India*, 22: 42.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 4.vii.1970. Coll.: R. R. Sharma.

*Remarks*.—Olivegreenish above with reticulated cross-bars intersected by two dorsolateral buff stripes; lower parts whitish. Nostrils directed upwards; internasals narrowed anteriorly and as long as the prefrontals. 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales in 19 rows, keeled; outer row of scales is smooth. V 123; C. 63.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

## Family ELAPIDAE

23. \***Bungarus caeruleus** (Schneider)

(Common Indian Kriit)

1801. *Pseudoboa caerulea*: Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **ii**: 284.1971. *Bungarus caeruleus*: Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, **63**: 89.*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters.  
25.ii.1969. Coll.: R. K. Bhatnagar.*Remarks*.—It is steel black in colour and has white linear arches across the back; lower parts are white. 7 supralabials 3rd and 4th touching the eye. Scales in 15 rows. V. 196; C. 45. In the dorsal region scales are hexagonal, caudals are entire. It is a timid snake and usually inoffensive. It is the only kind found all over India even south of the Ganges basin.*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh: As above.24. \***Naja naja oxiana** (Eichwald)

(Indian Cobra)

1831. *Tomyrix oxiana*: Eichwald, *Zool. Spec.*, **iii**: 171.1943. *Naja naja oxiana*: Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, **3**, Serpentes, p. 428.*Material*.—1 ex., Deoghat, Solan District, Alt. 1525 meters,  
20.vi.1970. Coll.: T. R. Sharma.*Remarks*.—Greyish-brown above, with dark transverse bars. The bars below the hood are darker than those on the body; valley whitish. It is ascellate, its hood does not expand so much as in spectacled variety. Poison fangs followed by a small tooth. Diameter of the eye little less than its distance from the mouth; nostril large; vertically elliptic; internasals as long as the prefrontals; 1 preocular in contact with the internasal; 3 post-oculars; 7 supralabials 3rd highest, 3rd and 4th touching the eye; temporals 2+3; 4th and 5th infralabials largest; two pairs of genials, the anterior larger than the posterior. Scales smooth, oblique, the outer 2 or 3 rows larger than the others. 25th scales on the neck, 21 at mid body. V 191; C. 66.

## Family VIPERIDAE

25. **Echis carinatus** (Schneider)

(Saw-scaled Viper or Phoorsa)

1801. *Pseudoboa carinata*: Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **ii**: 285.1971. *Echis carinatus*: Sharma, *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, **63**: 90.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan district, Alt. 1513.41 meters. 4.iv.1971. Coll. : K. R. Thakur.

*Remarks*.—Greyish above with a vertebral series of pale dark-edged spots; a cruciform shaped whitish mark on the top of the head behind the eyes; whitish below. Snout short and rounded nasal divided into a large anterior and small posterior portion a pair of internasals in contact with one another. Scales on the top of the head are small, imbricate and strongly keeled. 11 supralabials, 4th is the largest. Scales in 29 rows, the two outermost rows are the largest, the oblique series in 5 rows. V. 152; C. 27

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

## 26. *Trimeresurus albolabris* Gray

1842. *Trimeresurus albolabris* : Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, p. 48.

1943. *Trimeresurus albolabris* : Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3, Serpentes, p. 523.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan District, Alt. 1513.41 meters, 15.v.1973. Coll. : H. P. Agrawal. 1 ex., Solan, Alt. 1521 meters, 20.vii.1973. Coll. : K. K. Mahajan.

*Remarks*.—Green above, pale green below, upper lip pale green. Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head scales small subequal, smooth; internasals 3 times larger than the adjacent scales; 11 supralabials, 1st united with the nasal, 3rd largest; temporal scales small, feebly keeled. Scales in 21 rows. V 160; C. 64.

*Distribution*.—Himachal Pradesh : As above.

## 27 *Vipera russelli* (Shaw)

(Russell's Viper)

1797. *Coluber russelli* : Shaw, *Nat. Misc.*, viii : 291.

1971. *Vipera russelli* : Agrawal, *J. zool. Soc. India*, 22 : 45.

*Material*.—1 ex., Saproon, Solan district, Alt. 1513.41 meters. 11.iv.1969. Coll. : R. K. Bhatnagar. 1 ex., Solan, Alt. 1523 meters. 18.ix.1970. Coll. : Brij Lal.

*Remarks*.—Light brown above, with 3 longitudinal series of oval spots; yellowish white below. Head distinct from neck, triangular in shape and covered with small imbricate and keeled scales; head has large symmetrical dark brown markings. Snout is obtuse; nostrils are much bigger, pierced in the nasal. 10 supralabials, 4th and 5th are the largest. Scales in

27 rows, strongly keeled, but the outer row is smooth. V. 156;  
C. 47

*Distribution.*—Himachal Pradesh: As above.

#### SUMMARY

The present comprehensive account of reptiles of Simla Hills is based on collections made by the various tour parties from High Altitude Zoology Field Station, Solan. A total of 27 species, comprising 8 species belonging to 5 genera of lizards and 19 species belonging to 12 genera of snakes are recorded. Out of 27 species, 17 species are recorded for the first time from this area.

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