

REPTILIA

By

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INTRODUCTION

The North-western and Western part, comprising only one-third of the total area of the sanctuary was surveyed during this expedition and in all 34 examples belonging to 13 species and 2 subspecies belonging to 15 genera distributed in 7 different families have been collected. All the species constitute new locality records from Arunachal Pradesh. The reptile fauna of this area bears a close similarity with that of Burmese fauna.

The earlier locality records for various species cited in this paper are based on Smith (1931, 1935, 1943), Stoliczka (1871) and Wall (1925).

Order I : TESTUDINES

Sub-order : Thecophora

Family (1) : EMYDIDAE

1. *Cyclemys mouhoti* Gray

Material examined : 1 ex., Deban, 27 km. from Miao, Tirap district. 27.iv.1981.

Measurements : Carapace length and breadth 182 and 178 mm. Plastron length and breadth 153 and 87 mm.

Distribution : Assam, Laos, Vietnam, Hainan Island.

Remarks : The head is brown with unifoam yellowish reticulation. Shell dark brown.

Order II : SQUAMATA

Sub-order : SAURIA

Family (2) : GEKKONIDAE

2. *Cyrtodactylus khasiensis* (Jerdon)

Material examined : 1 ex., Hornbill (Alt. 680 m.). ca. 30 km. NE of Miao ; 13.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 53 mm., tail 60 mm.

Distribution : North-east India. Upper Burma.

Remarks : Head moderate with brown spots. Colour gray-brown above with dark edged whitish spots more or less regularly arranged. Tail with dark brown and white bands arranged alternately.

3. *Hemidactylus frenatus* Schlegel

Material examined : 3 ex., Miao (Alt. 310 m.), 5.v.1981. and 8.v.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 12-37 mm., tail 36 mm. In one specimen tail is broken.

Distribution : The species is widely distributed from South Asia, Tropical Australia to East Africa.

Remarks : Colour grayish brown. Body with small granular scales intermixed with scattered, rounded conical tubercles. Tail covered above with small scales and series of six enlarged pointed tubercles.

4. *Cosymbotus platyurus* (Schneider)

Material examined : 1 ex., Miao (Alt. 310 m.) 4.iv.1981 ; 1 ex., Chiria camp (Alt. 520 m.) Ca. 64 km. E. of Miao, 23.iv.1981 ; 2 ex., Deban (Alt. 340 m.) ca. 27 km. E. Miao, 27.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 50-54 mm., tail 45-56 mm.

Distribution : India : Darjeeling Dist. (West Bengal), Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Nepal, Burma, South-east Asia.

Remarks : Head moderate covered above with minute granular scales. Belly with large, smooth rounded imbricate scales ; Tail strongly depressed with denticulated lateral margin. Colour grayish brown above and yellowish below.

Family (3) : AGAMIDAE

5. *Ptyctolaemus gularis* (Peters)

Material examined : 5 ex., Hornbill (Alt. 680 m.), ca. 30 km. NE of Miao, 10-16.iv.1981 ; 1 ex., Deban (Alt.340 m.), ca. 27 km. E. of Miao, 27.iv.1981.

Measurement :—Length : snout to vent 43-65 mm., tail 90-145 mm.

Distribution : Assam (south of Brahmaputra) ; Khasi Hills (Meghalaya).

Remarks : Head long and narrow. Dorsal scales unequal and

strongly keeled. Colour olive brown above. A dark stripe from below the eye. Yellowish-white below.

Family (4) : SCINCIDAE

6. **Sphenomorphus maculatum** (Blyth)

Material examined : 9 ex., Hornbill (Alt. 680 m.), ca. 30 km. NE of Miao, 13-16.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 33-55 mm., tail 48-100 mm.

Distribution : India : Eastern Himalayas, Assam. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Burma, Thailand, Combodia, Vietnam.

Remarks : Snout obtuse ; Lower eyelid scaly. Olive brown above with two dorsal series of dark brown spots ; a dark brown lateral bands spotted with whitish extends from the nose to the tail. Lower parts dirty white.

Sub-order : SERPENTES

Family (5) : TYPHLOPIDAE

7. **Typhlops diardi diardi** Smith

Material examined : 1 ex., New Itanagar, 31.iii.1981.

Measurements :—Total Length 277 mm.

Distribution : India : Dun Vally (Uttar Pradesh), Bengal, Assam, Burma, Malay, Peninsula, Thailand.

Remarks : Snout rounded. Colour blackish above, paler below. Tail ending in a small spine. 25 scales round the body 300 transverse rows of scales.

Family (6) : COLUBRIDAE

8. **Elaphe taeniura** Cope

Material examined : 1 ex., near Burma nala (Alt. 500 m.) 67 km. from Miao, on the M. V. Road, 24.iv.1981 ; 1 ex., on the M. V. road, ca. 42 km. from Miao, 26.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 1295 mm. and 1560 mm. tail 280 mm. and 377 mm.

Distribution : India : Darjeeling (West Bengal), Burma, N. Vietnam, Hong Kong, Thailand.

Remarks : Grayish above, head and neck uniform, a black stripe

on each side of the head, passing through the eye ; anterior part of the back with a vertebral series of black butterfly shaped spots, and small diamond-shaped spots on the sides. A black stripe along each side of the posterior part of the belly and along each side of the tail, separated from the upper lateral stripe by a whitish streak. Lower parts, yellowish and spotted with black.

9. *Oligodon (prox) cinereus* (Günther)

Material examined : 1 ex., on the way, 57 km. from Miao on M. V. Road, 23.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 177 mm. tail 33 mm.

Distribution : India : Assam, Burma, China, Hong Kong.

Remarks : Though the specimen appears to agree with Indian material of *Oligodon cinereus* in many details, due to the difference in many major characters and colouration, we hesitate to regard it as that species fully. This snake differ from *O. cinereus* as follows :

Scales round the middle of body in 15 rows (vs. in 17 rows) ; subcaudal scales 49 (vs. 29-42) and supralabials 7th, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye (vs. 8th, 4th and 5th touching the eye).

10. *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* (Wall)

Material examined : 1 ex., Deban (Alt. 340 m.) ca. 27 km. E. of Miao, 27.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 705 mm. tail to 350 mm.

Distribution : India : North Bengal ; Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Upper Burma and North-west Thailand.

Remarks : Bonzy-olive above, the scales black-edged ; ventral and outer scales-rows pale greenish. A black stripe on each side of the head, passing through the eye and extending on to the nape and forebody, where it broken up into spots. Lips and lower jaw yellowish.

11. *Rhabdophis himalayana* (Günther)

Material examined : 1 ex., Namdapha camp (Alt. 350 m.) 58 km. from Miao, 21.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 395 mm. tail 127 mm.

Distribution : India : Eastern Himalayas, Assam, Upper Burma.

Remarks : Blackish above with small black spots. Lower parts yellowish speckled with blackish. Labials yellowish.

12. *Natrix modesta* (Günther)

Material examined : 1 ex., Near 31st milepost on M. V. road, 24.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 320 mm. Tail 120 mm.

Distribution : India : Assam, Upper Burma, N. Thailand, Cambodia, Malay Peninsula.

Remarks : Colour darkish brown above with white spots regularly arranged and dorso-lateral series of small yellow spots form an indistinct stripe. Belly whitish with a squarish black spot near the edge of each ventral, forming a stripe from throat to the tail tip labials edged with black. Head dark brown.

13. *Pseudoxenodon macrops* (Blyth)

Material examined : 1 ex., near Camera point (Alt. 440 m.), 57 km. from Miao, on the M. V Road, 23.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 580 mm., tail 165 mm.

Distribution : India : Eastern Himalayas, Assam, Burma, Thailand, Malay Peninsula.

Remarks : Olivaceous above with a vertebral series of yellowish spots. A chevron-shaped mark on the nape. Yellowish below speckled with small black spots.

14. *Rhabdops bicolor* (Blyth)

Material examined : 1 ex., Namdapha camp (Alt. 350) 58 km. from Miao, 23.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 360 mm., tail 95 mm.

Distribution : India : Assam, Burma ; Western part of S. China.

Remarks : The black colour of the back descends on to the flanks in a series of V-shaped marks. Yellowish-white below. Head is olivaceous.

Family (7) ELAPIDAE

15. *Ophiophagus hannah* (Cantor)

Material examined : 1 ex., near Burma nala (Atl. 500 cm.) 67 km. from Miao, on the M. V road, 24.iv.1981.

Measurements :—Length : snout to vent 2210 mm. tail 475 mm.

Distribution : India : Peninsular India to Himalayas, The Andamans, Burma, Vietnam to South China. Malay Peninsula and Archipelago to the Philippines.

Remarks : Colour blackish-brown above and dirty white below. The head is moderate in size and markedly depressed. The nostril is fairly large. The eye is moderately large with round pupil. The body is fairly robust. The dorsal are in 15 rows two head lengths behind the head, 15 in midbody, and 15 two heads lengths before the vent. Caudal scales 85 1st single 2nd double, 3rd to 7th single and from 8th to rest are in double rows.

SUMMARY

This paper deals with the reptile collection from Namdapha Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India. It is based on by some recent collections made by Dr. Syamrup Biswas and Party during the year 1981. A total of 13 species and 2 sub-species belonging to 15 genera and 7 families are recorded. All the species and sub-species are recorded for the first time from Arunachal Pradesh.

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