

MISCELLANEA

REPTILES.

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE 'TAUKTE' LIZARD (*Gecko verticillatus*) IN CALCUTTA.—In Boulenger's volume on the Reptiles and Batrachians in the *Fauna of British India* the distribution of *Gecko verticillatus* is given as "Eastern Bengal to Southern China and the Malay Archipelago," while Anderson, in his account of the Reptiles of Upper Burma and Yunnan, says that it is found in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. It has taken me two years to obtain definite confirmation of the latter record by obtaining a specimen, although Rai Bahadur R. B. Sanyal, the Superintendent of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens, tells me that it is not uncommon in certain large and shady trees in these gardens, in which several specimens have recently been captured for exhibition to the public. My own specimen was taken by my assistant, Mr. C. Vaillant, in another part of the suburbs. The species differs very greatly in its habits in different localities; for while in Bangkok and in some parts of Burma it is common inside even brick dwelling-houses, in the northern part of the Malay Peninsula it is practically confined to the trunks of palm trees in the village groves, and in Calcutta it is extremely shy and wary, hiding itself in the densest foliage. In Singapore, from which several specimens are recorded, the species appears to have been introduced accidentally, probably on ships, as it does not occur in the southern part of the Malay Peninsula, and it is very possible that its occurrence in Calcutta is equally fortuitous.

N. ANNANDALE.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF *Kachuga sylhetensis*.—This tortoise appears to have been recorded hitherto only from Assam, but a specimen was brought me last winter at Rajshahi, a place situated in the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam but lying almost due north of Calcutta. This extends the known range of *K. sylhetensis* considerably further to the west.

N. ANNANDALE.

BATRACHIA.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF *Bufo andersoni*.—This toad appears to occur over the whole of northern peninsular India as well as in Arabia, although the localities given by Boulenger, *viz.*, Agra, Rajputana and Sind, are all towards the north-west, in which it is most abundant. I recently took a specimen at Rajshahi in Eastern Bengal and there is another in the Indian Museum (quite

characteristic) from Purneah. The species is very common at Lucknow, where I found numerous adults and young, many of the latter still with remnants of a tail, towards the end of April. *B. andersoni* is the only toad which I have seen from the Simla hills, in which, above 7,000 feet, the only common Batrachian appears to be *Rana vicina*; *R. breviceps*, *R. cyanophlyctis* and *R. limnocharis*, occurring at lower altitudes. I have no information how high the present species ranges, but there is a specimen labelled Simla (the town, 7,000 feet?) in the Museum. I did not see it myself in the district, and natives of Theog (8,000 feet) told me that the only frog (or toad) they knew lived in the water.

N. ANNANDALE.

INSECTS.

NOTE ON *Rutilia nitens*, MACQ.—Seven specimens of this brilliant Dexiid (including only one ♂) in excellent condition were captured by the Museum Collector at Phularia, Nepal Terai, on May 5th, 6th and 7th, this year. The genus is the handsomest of all the Muscidae and contains some of the largest species, eighteen of which are recorded from the Orient, but only the present one from India. It was not known hitherto from what part of India *R. nitens* came. The specimens agree almost exactly with Macquart's description. *Rutilia* is mainly an Australasian genus, but extends to some of the East Indian islands. From Victoria and Queensland I possess several splendid species of very large size, but at present I have not attempted to identify them.

E. BRUNETTI.

RECORDS OF SOME INDIAN CERAMBYCIDÆ.—The recent publication of Mr. C. J. Gahan's volume on the Cerambycidae in the *Fauna of British India* has made it possible to identify some of the more conspicuous specimens of that family lately acquired by the Indian Museum.

The large *Acanthophorus serraticornis*, Oliv., is recorded by Mr. Gahan only from Southern India. It is, however, far more widely distributed. In the Indian Museum Collection there are specimens from Sikkim; Nowgong; Ramanad (South India); Singhbhoom Forest, Chota Nagpur, where it has been reported to be destructive to Sâl (*Shorea robusta*); and also from the Andamans. It is quite possible that this beetle may be found in any part of India and also in Burma, although there are yet no records of it from the latter country.

Neocerambyx paris, Wied., another comparatively large beetle of the same family, is by the same authority recorded from Mysore, Bangalore, Burma, Siam and Singapore. In November 1906 a characteristic specimen was obtained in Calcutta by the Museum Collector. The Indian Museum now possesses specimens from Calcutta, Maldah and Bangalore.

Lophosternus indicus, Hope, was obtained by me in May 1906 in the Purneah District. This is the only specimen yet recorded