

XII DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SAND-BOA FROM THE PERSIAN GULF.

By N. ANNANDALE, D.Sc., F.A.S.B., Superintendent,
Indian Museum.

Some years ago Capt. R. E. Lloyd, I.M.S., while Surgeon-Naturalist to the Indian Marine Survey, obtained a single specimen of an undescribed *Eryx* which has been awaiting description in the Indian Museum since he brought it to Calcutta. Its diagnosis is as follows:—

Eryx fodiens, sp. nov.

This species is allied to *E. jayakari*, Boulenger, but may be distinguished at sight by its prominent upper jaw. It does not appear to be very closely related to *E. persicus*, Nikolski, which it resembles in its projecting and trenchant rostral.

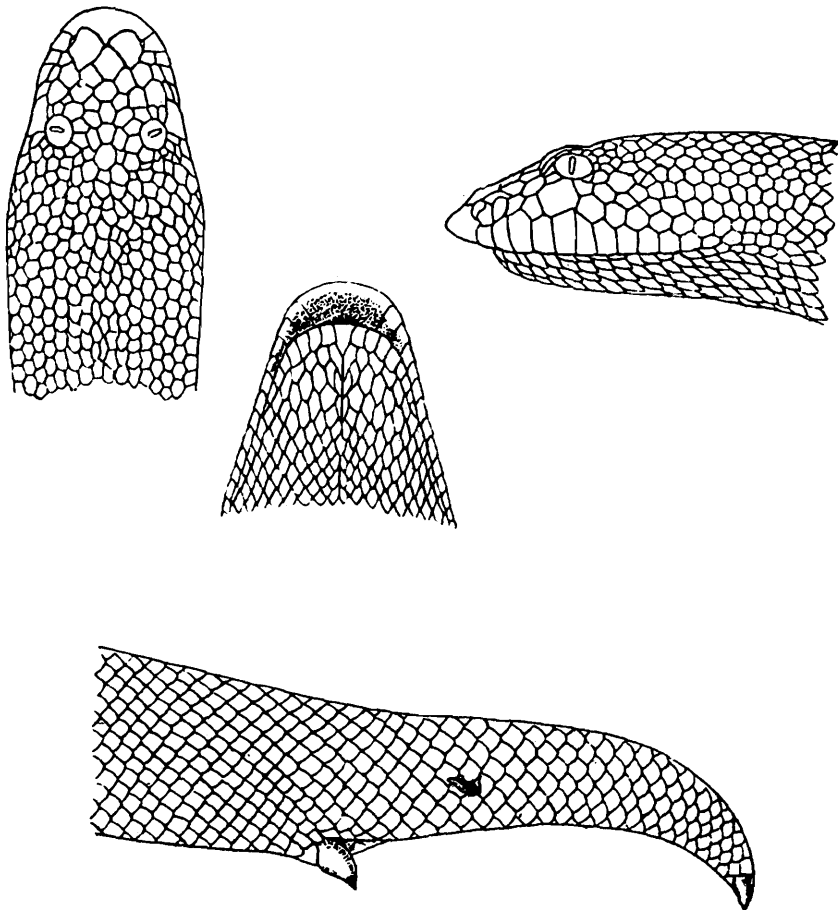
The eyes are small and situated almost entirely on the dorsal surface of the head. They are separated one from the other by 5 rows of scales, surrounded by 11 scales, and separated from the labials by 3 scales arranged as follows—one large scale in front and two superimposed smaller scales behind it. The rostral is very large and prominent, the portion visible from above being as long as one of the internasals; its posterior end is strongly angulate, its lateral margins are prominent and trenchant and its ventral surface is concave at the base. The internasals, the rostral and a small scale behind them meet together and form an X-shaped suture. There are 10 upper labials. A short mental groove is present. The upper jaw, although very prominent, is truncated in front as seen from above.

The body-scales are smooth, arranged in 37 rows. The ventrals are small, between 180 and 190 in number; there are 18 subcaudals.

The tail is pointed and ends in a spur. The hind limbs, which are unusually long, are provided with a well-developed claw.

The colour of the dorsal surface is dark brown with numerous narrow, irregular zig-zag cross-bars of a dirty cream-colour. The lower part of the sides and the ventral surface are yellowish white. The head is pale olivaceous above, obscurely vermiculated with dark brown on the occipital region.

Habitat. The single specimen was found at Koweit on the Persian Gulf. It was dug up from a depth of about a foot in sand near the sea.



Head and tail of *Eryx fodiens*, $\times 2$.

Type. No. 17187 *Rept. Ind. Mus.* The specimen is a male and was cut into two pieces at its capture. Otherwise it is in good condition.

