

XIII PHAYREA ISABELLINA, THEOBALD, RE-DESCRIBED

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Theobald in 1868 alluded to a snake in his Catalogue of Reptiles in the Asiatic Society's Museum (p. 51) for which he proposed the name *Phayrea isabellina*. His remarks are so brief that they do not amount to a description, and he has made a serious mistake in one very important particular, viz. in the number of the costal rows. Boulenger on the data available made a guess at its identity, and in his Catalogue refers to it under the name of *Psammophis condanarus* (Cat. Vol. III, 1896, p. 165).

I have recently examined the type-specimen in the Indian Museum, and find that it is not an Opisthoglyph species at all, but is nearly allied to the Aglyphous genus *Tropidonotus*. The specimen is faded, and the surface of the scales rubbed, but otherwise is in good preservation.

*Description*.—Head moderately elongate. Snout moderately rounded. Eye moderate with round (?) pupil. Neck hardly evident. Body of moderate girth and of nearly uniform calibre throughout. Belly rounded. Tail moderate, being about one-fourth the total length.

*Lepidosis*.—*Rostral*. Depth about two-thirds the breadth; touching six shields, portion visible above subequal to the suture between the internasals. *Internasals*. Two, the suture between them three-fourths that between the prae-frontal pair, four-fifths the internaso-prae-frontals. *Prae-frontals*. Two; the suture between them about five-thirds the prae-fronto-frontal sutures, in contact with the postnasal, loreal, praeocular, and supraocular. *Frontal*. Rather longer than the snout, rather shorter than the parietals in contact with six shields, the fronto-supraocular sutures three times the length of the fronto-parietals. *Nasals*. Divided, the posterior shield rather deeper and longer than the anterior. Nostril entirely in the anterior shield, and in the upper two-thirds of the suture. *Loreal*. Small, square, less than half the length of the nasals. *Praeocular*, one. *Postoculars*, two. *Temporal*, one. *Supra-labials*, eight, the second and third touch the loreal, third and fourth the praeocular, fourth and fifth the eye, and the sixth and seventh the temporal. *Posterior Sublinguals*. Subequal to the anterior, touching the fifth and sixth infralabials. *Infralabials*, six, the sixth about three-fourths the length, and twice the breadth of the posterior sublinguals, in contact with two scales posteriorly.

*Costals*.—In 19 rows two heads-lengths behind the head, 19 in midbody, 17 two heads-lengths before the vent. *Vertebrales* not

enlarged, smooth. No apical pits or facets. Not emarginate apically. *Ventrals*, 166. Anal divided. *Subcaudals*, 82, divided. *Length*, 520 mm. (1 foot, 8½ inches). *Tail*, 146 mm. (5¾ inches).

*Colouration*.—Buff dorsally with a dark dorso-lateral stripe beginning on the snout and continuing to the vent. A similar rather broader subcostal stripe. Belly yellowish.

*Dentition*.—The maxillary dentition is that of the genus *Amphiesma*. The teeth are diacranterian. The praecranterian are anododont, and coryphodont and number dubiously 17. The cranterian are 2, subequal, and about twice the length of the last praecranterian.

*Locality*.—Bassein, Burma. No. 8730.

I think the species is entitled to rank in a genus apart from *Amphiesma*, the costals not being keeled, and not emarginate. The postoculars are two instead of three, the posterior sublinguals touch three instead of two infralabials, and the 6th infralabial touches only two scales posteriorly.