

A NEW SNAKE FROM THE NORTHERN FRONTIER
OF ASSAM.

By Colonel F. WALL, C.M.G., I.M.S.

Oligodon melanozonatus, sp. nov.

O. erythrorhachis, Annandale, *Rec. Ind. Mus.* VIII, 1912, p. 48.

Type, No. 16799, co-type, No. 16798. Both in the Indian Museum.

Length 513 mm. (1 foot, 8½ inches). *Tail* 83 mm. (3⅓ inches).

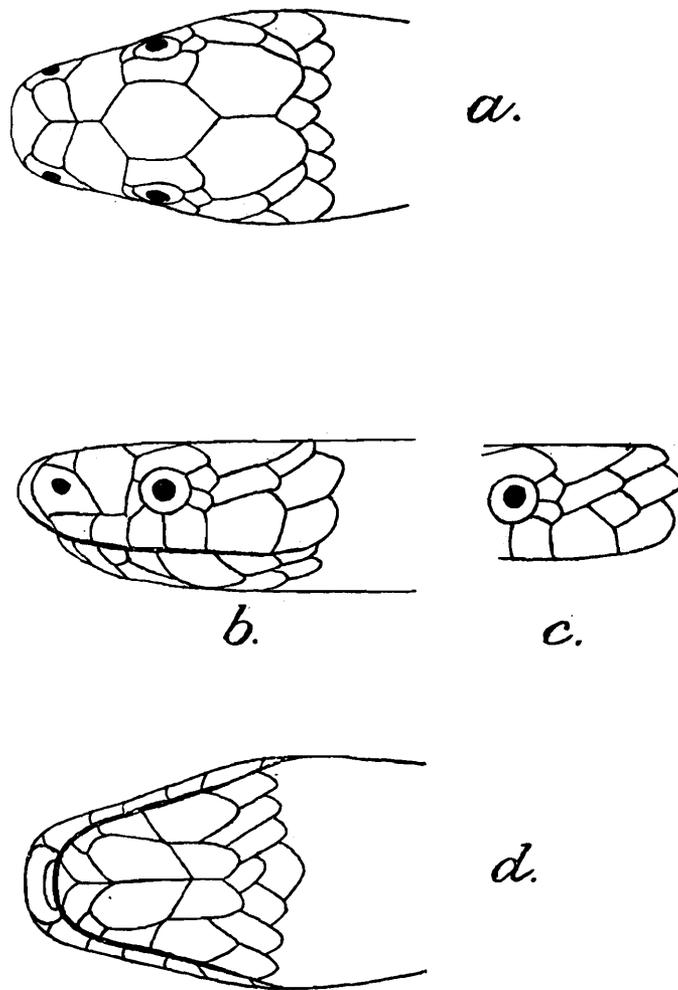
Lepidosis. *Rostral* touching six shields, the rostro-nasal shorter than the rostro-internasal sutures. Portion visible above three-fifths to three-fourths its distance from the frontal, one-third to two-fifths the length of the frontal. *Internasals*: a pair. The suture between them equal to that between the prae-rontal fellows, about half the internaso-prae-frontals. *Frontal*: length greater than the snout, equal to the parietals. *Supraoculars*: length about equal to its distance to mid-internasals, two-thirds the frontal, three-sevenths the temporal; breadth two-fifths the frontal. *Nasal* entire. *Loreal* absent. *Praeocular*: one. *Postoculars*: two. *Temporal* 1+2. *Supralabials* 6.¹ The 1st and 2nd touching the nasal, the 2nd the prae-frontal, the 3rd and 4th the eye, and the 5th the temporal. *Posterior sublinguals* shorter than the anterior pair, touching the 4th infralabial. *Infralabials* 4; the 4th largest, longer and broader than the posterior sublinguals, and touching two scales behind. *Costals* two heads-lengths behind the head 17, midbody 17, two heads-lengths before the vent 15. *Ventrals* 171 to 173. *Anal* divided. *Subcaudals* 42 to 45, divided.

Colour. Dorsally light brown, obscurely mottled with blackish. Twenty rather ill-defined black bars cross the body to end low in the flanks, and four such bars cross the tail. In the smaller and half-grown specimen these bars are as light centrally as the dorsal brown, and are edged anteriorly and posteriorly with black as in *albocinctus*. A whitish, black-edged sagitta on the nape, the point directed forwards. Just before this is a black-edged, light brown sagitta with the point on the middle of the frontal shield. An obscure, blackish, prae-fronto-frontal bar, reappearing below the eye. Belly white with transverse, black, irregularly-disposed cross-bars, many as broad as the ventral shields. Similar marks beneath the tail.

¹ These shields in the larger specimen are as shown in figure *b* on both sides, but in the smaller specimen as shown in figure *c* on the left side only, a 6th labial being wedged between the 5th and 7th.

Locality. Upper Rotung Valley, Abor Hills, Assam frontier, at about 2000 feet elevation.

Note. Dr. Annandale referred these specimens to *O. erythrorhachis* Wall, but a revision of the species of this genus from



TEXT-FIG. 1.—*Oligodon melanozonatus*, sp. nov.
Lepidosis of head: $\times 2$.

the material available in the Indian Museum and Bombay collections, convinces me that they represent a species hitherto not described. In *O. erythrorhachis* the costals are 15 anteriorly, 13 two heads-lengths before the vent. The ventrals are 154 and subcaudals 64. The supralabials are 7.

