

A NEW SPECIES OF *OLIGODON* FROM THE UNITED PROVINCES (INDIA).

By M. N. ACHARJI, M.Sc., and H. C. RAY, M.Sc., Assistants, Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

In June 1936, an interesting snake of the genus *Oligodon* (= *Simotes*)¹ was received for identification by the Zoological Survey of India from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Kheri Division, Eastern Circle in the United Provinces. After a very careful examination of the specimen we came to the conclusion that it represented a species hitherto unknown to science. With a view to having our identification confirmed, the snake was sent to Dr. Malcolm A. Smith of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, who favoured us with the following remarks:—

“I cannot identify it with any description or specimen in this Museum. It therefore appears to be new. It is almost identical in scalation with *Oligodon purpurascens cyclurus* from the Malay Peninsula, the only difference between your Indian specimen and the specimens from the Malay Peninsula being slight variations in the size of the head shields and very distinctly in colouration. If your specimen really came from the United Provinces it can hardly be associated with species that exist in Indo-China and Malay Peninsula.”

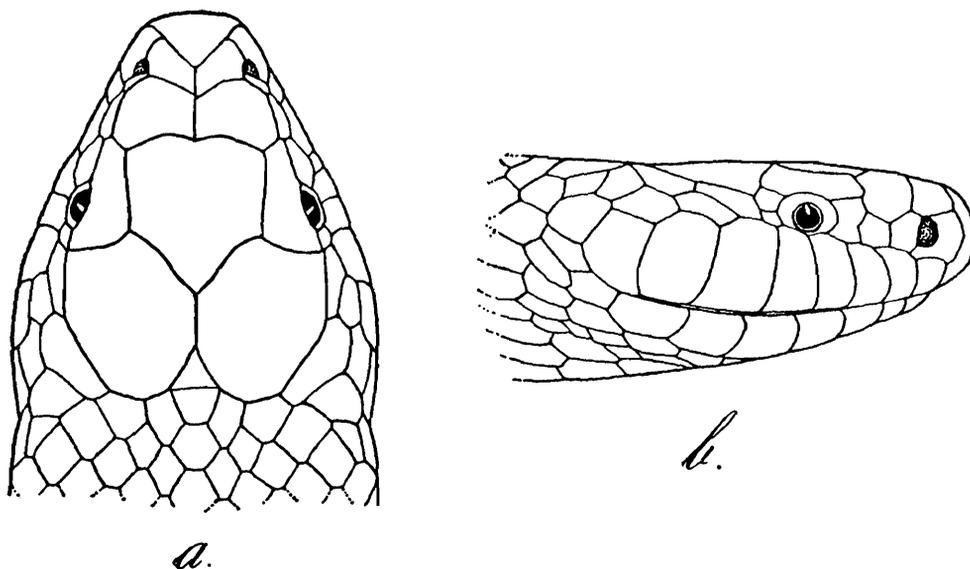
We take this opportunity to offer our grateful thanks to Dr. Malcolm A. Smith for the trouble he took in examining the snake for us.

To Dr. B. Prashad we are grateful for going through the manuscript and making useful suggestions.

Mr. B. Bagchi has kindly prepared the drawings under our supervision for which we are thankful to him.

Oligodon kheriensis, sp. nov.

Nasal divided; portion of the rostral seen from above nearly as long as its distance from the frontal; suture between the internasals much



TEXT-FIG.—*Oligodon kheriensis*, sp. nov. a. dorsal view of head $\times ca. 3$; b. lateral view of head $\times 2$.

¹ Wall, F.—*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, XXV, p. 305, (1923).

shorter than that between the praefrontals ; frontal very slightly shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, and larger than the parietals ; loreal single, as long as deep ; praeocular single (large), no subocular ; postoculars two ; temporals 2+2 (anterior ones superimposed) ; upper labials 8, of these 4th and 5th enter the eye ; lower labials 1-4 in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are greatly larger than the posterior ones ; anal entire ; ventrals 197 ; subcaudals 38 in two rows ; scales in rows, two head-lengths behind the head 19, middle of the body 19, two head-lengths before the vent 17.

Shape of the pupil of the eye round. Head not distinct from the neck. Body cylindrical. Colouration coral red above, yellowish below.

Measurements.—Total length 3 ft. 1 inch ; from snout to vent 2 ft. 9 inches ; from vent to the tip of tail 4 inches.

Locality.—*Oligodon kheriensis* was killed in a forest camp in North Kheri Division, Eastern Circle, Kheri-Lakhimpur, in the United Provinces.

Type specimen.—No. 20391 in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India (*Ind. Mus.*), Calcutta.