

ON A COLLECTION OF SNAKES FROM NORTH-EAST INDIA
(REPTILIA : SERPENTES)

By

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INTRODUCTION

The present paper is based on the material collected by different members of the staff of Zoological Survey of India, Eastern Regional Station, Shillong, since its inception in 1959. The collection comprises of 165 specimens and on examination revealed 33 species belonging to 22 genera. The localities include areas from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order : SQUAMATA

Sub-order : SERPENTES

Family : TYPHLOPIDAE

1. **Typhlops braminus** (Daudin)

(Common blind snake)

Material : 11 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Assam, Goalpara, Dhupdhara CPWD IB compound, 21. 1. 1972, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 3 ex, Assam, Manas sanctuary, 9. 1. 1974, Coll. *A. K. Ghosh* ; 4 ex, Kahitama forest near Manas Sanctuary, 13. 1. 1974, Coll. *A. K. Ghosh* ; 1 ex, Manas Sanctuary east bank, 14. 1. 1975, *K. R. Rao* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Umran, 18. 5. 1967, Coll. *R. K. Varshney* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Barapani, Feb. 1975, Coll. *Asish John*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 146 mm.

2. **Typhlops diardi** Schlegel

(Diard's blind snake)

Material : 9 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Lawsohtun, 26. 6. 1967, Coll. *S. D. Sangma* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Upland Road, 3. 7. 1968, Coll. *K. B. Khattri* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Umtham, 23. 7. 1971, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Nongpoh, 23. 7. 1971, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Nongpoh, 25. 8. 1972, Coll. *A. K. Ghosh* ;

1 ex, Khasi Hills, Bishnupur, 20. 5. 1970, Coll. *S. J. S. Hattar* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Motinagar forest, 18. 9. 1974, Coll. *R. Zoramthanga* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Golfinks, 31. 5. 1976, Coll. *K. Deb* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Garo Hills, Baghmara, 1. 4. 1976, Coll. *S. Biswas*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 500 mm.

Family BOIDAE

3. *Python molurus* Linnaeus

(Indian Python)

Material : 2 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Malki forest, 18. 9. 1968, Coll. *A. S. Rao* ; 1 ex, Assam, Kaziranga, 23. 2. 1972, Coll. *G. M. Yazdani*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures approximately 14 feet.

Family COLUBRIDAE

4. *Ahaetulla abaetulla* (Linnaeus)

(Painted Bronze-back)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Assam, Darrang, Dalgaon, 15. 1. 1965, Coll. *R. P. Ghosh*.

Total length : 645 mm, tail 350 mm.

5. *Amphiesma khasiensis* (Boulenger)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Barapani, 4. 5. 1967, Coll. *S. K. Kakati*.

Total length : 400 mm, tail 190 mm.

6. *Amphiesma parallela* (Boulenger)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, 9. 3. 1961, Coll. *S. N. Prasad* ; 1 ex, Shillong, 19. 4. 1972, Coll. *S. J. S. Hattar* ; 1 ex, Shillong, Risa Colony, 16. 8. 1978, Coll. *P. B. Thapa*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 500 mm, tail 144 mm.

Remark : In one specimen there are nine supralabials on one side and eight on the other side.

7. *Amohiesm stolata* (Linnaeus)

(Striped Keel-back)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Sericulture, garden, 6. 7. 1962, Coll. *S. N. Prasad* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Umroi, 13. 9. 1977, Coll. *S. K. Chanda* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Barapani, 6. 10. 1975, Coll. *Asish John*,

Total length : Largest specimen measures 505 mm, tail 145 mm.

Remarks : One of the specimens has seven supralabials on one side and eight on the other. Another specimen has seven supralabials on either side with 3rd and 4th touching the eye. Two examples I have examined for St. Anthony's College, Shillong have eight supralabials each.

8. *Blythia reticulata* (Blyth)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Upper Shillong, donated by the Potato Research Institute, 21. 4. 1977.

Total length : 385 mm, tail 40 mm.

9. *Boiga trigonata* (Schneider)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Garo Hills, Anogiri, 8. 3. 1975, Coll. *S. Biswas*.

Total length : 515 mm, tail 123 mm.

Remark : The caudal count is 105, whereas Smith's (1943) highest count is 96.

10. *Chrysopelea ornata* (Shaw) (Golden Tree Snake)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Dawki, 11. 6. 1981, Coll. *C. Radhakrishnan*.

Total length : 1040 mm, tail 235 mm.

11. *Elaphe cantoris* (Boulenger)

Material : 2 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Weilo, 26. 10. 1978, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 1 ex, Arunachal Pradesh, Subansiri Expedition, Doju Bung, 15. 12. 1974, Coll. *J. M. Julka* & party.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 1250 mm, tail 230 mm.

12. *Elaphe porphyracea* (Cantor)

Material : 5 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, 2. 9. 1973, Coll. *P. Lushai* ; 2 ex, Shillong, 6. 10. 1968, Coll. *S. K. Shobhani* ; 1 ex, Shillong, 3. 6. 1977, Coll. *A. C. Sukla* ; 1 ex, Shillong, June 1975, Coll. *Asish John*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 870 mm, tail 148 mm.

13. **Elaphe prasina** (Blyth)

(Green Tree Racer)

Material : 4 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Kenche's trace, 15. 5. 1967, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Madan Laban, 17. 4. 1965, Coll. *K. Khattri* ; 1 ex, Kenche's trace, 3. 6. 1967, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 1 ex, Arunachal Pradesh, Subansiri Expedition, 4 km North-west of Tali, 30. 1. 1975, Coll. *J. M. Julka* & party.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 960 mm, tail 350 mm.

14. **Elaphe radiata** (Schlegel)

(The Copper Head)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Umroi, 17. 8. 1973, Coll. *A. K. Ghosh* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Barapani, 27. 8. 1968, Coll. *E. D. Nongkhlaw* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Jaintia Hills, Sonapurdi, on Khliehriat Road, 27. 8. 1974, Coll. *A. R. Lahiri*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 1870 mm, tail 400 mm.

15. **Enhydris enhydris** (Schneider)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Assam, Kaziranga, 25. 2. 1972, Coll. *G. M. Yazdani*.

Total length : 460 mm, tail 107 mm.

16. **Lycodon jara** (Shaw)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, office compound, 28. 8. 1968. Coll. *S. K. Sobhani*.

Total length : 385 mm, tail 106 mm.

Remark : This apparently is the first record of this species from Meghalaya.

17. **Pareas monticola** (Cantor)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Malki forest, 4. 12. 1973, Coll. *T. Deb* and *B. Endow* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Nongthymai, 3. 3. 1976, Coll. *M. S. Jyrwa* ; 1 ex, without any collection data.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 770 mm, tail 160 mm.

Remarks : The vertebral row of scales not enlarged. One specimen has 3 post oculars on one side and 2 on the other. The other two specimens have 3 post oculars each on either side.

18. *Psammodynastes pulverulentus* (Boie)

Material : 5 ex; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Old Barapani, 7. 2. 1961, Coll. *S. N. Prasad* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Shillong, T. C. Road, 16. 11. 1976, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Lawsohtun, 16. 8. 1971, Coll. *M. S. Jyrwa* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Motinagar forest, 19. 1. 1977, Coll. *M. S. Jyrwa* ; 1 ex, Arunachal Pradesh, Subansiri Expedition, Siyum, 25. 11. 1974, Coll. *J. M. Julka & party*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 435 mm., tail 170 mm.

19. *Rhabdophis himalayana* (Günther)

(Himalayan Keel-back)

Material : 17 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Risa Colony, 28. 8. 1968, Coll. *S. K. Sobhani* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 30. 4. 1973, Coll. *J. K. Prasad* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 17. 9. 1975, Coll. *Asish John* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 26. 6. 1975, Coll. *K. Deb* ; 1 ex, Shillong, T. C. Road, 24. 6. 1976, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 26. 9. 1977, Coll. *B. K. Bhattacharjee* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 22. 9. 1975, Coll. *Chandan Singh* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 5. 7. 1977, Coll. *B. K. Bhattacharjee* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Motinagar forest, 28. 6. 1974, Coll. *R. S. Giri* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 17. 8. 1977, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 2. 9. 1976, Coll. *J. K. Prasad* ; 1 ex, Shillong, T. C. Road, 3. 12. 1974, Coll. *M. S. Jyrwa* ; 1 ex, T. C. Road, 12. 7. 1976, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 8. 7. 1975, Coll. *S. J. S. Hattar* ; 1 ex, Motinagar forest, 2. 8. 1975, Coll. *R. Zorumthanga* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 26. 6. 1975, Coll. *K. Deb*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 850 mm. tail 200 mm.

20. *Rhabdophis subminiata* (Schlegel)

(Red-necked Keel-back)

Material : 6 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Assam, Kamrup district, 9. 1. 1974, Coll. *A. K. Ghosh* ; 1 ex, Sibsagar, Upper Dehing Reserved forest, 8 km from Margharita, 15. 11. 1974, Coll. *S. K. Chanda* ; 1 ex, Kaziranga, 17. 2. 1972, Coll. *A. K. Ghosh* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Laitumkhrach, 16. 9. 1970, Coll. *S. K. Chanda* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Risa Colony, 20. 7. 1973, Coll. *P. Lushai* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Garo Hills, 25. 2. 1965, Coll. *A. S. Rajgopal* ; 1 ex, Tripura, Subalsingh, 3. 8. 1979, Coll. *K. P. Singh*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 870 mm, tail 240 mm.

Remarks : Two of the present materials possess eight supralabials on one side and nine on the other, of which the third, fourth, and fifth

and fourth, fifth, and sixth respectively border the eye. Another material shows nine supralabials on one side and ten on the other. Post oculars are two on the left and three on the right in one specimen and three on the left and four on the right in a third specimen.

21. *Rhabdophis bicolor* (Blyth)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Fruit garden, 27. 10. 1970, Coll. *G. M. Yazdani* ; 1 ex, Shillong, Risa Colony, 6. 5. 1980, Coll. *Edilbert* ; 1 ex, Shillong, T. C. Road, 14. 8. 1976, Coll. *P. B. Thapa*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 450 mm, tail 130 mm.

Remark : One specimen shows a ventral count as high as 226, as against Smith's (1943) highest count of 214. In another specimen the prefrontal shield shows a one-fourth division in the middle, and the rostral is slightly produced in the middle.

22. *Sibynophis collaris* (Gray)

Material : 13 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya Khasi Hills, Shillong, Orchid house, 7. 6. 1973, Coll. *A. S. Rao* ; 1 ex, Forest Colony, 22. 12. 1972, Coll. *S. K. Talukdar* ; 1 ex, Shillong, 26. 6. 1967, Coll. *S. D. Sangma* ; 1 ex, Shillong, 1961, Coll. *Joseph* ; 2 ex, Shillong, Kenche's trace, 15. 5. 1967, Coll. *B. K. Tikader* ; 1 ex, Shillong, Risa Colony, 28. 5. 1974, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 20. 9. 1977, Coll. *S. J. S. Hattar* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 16. 7. 1977, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Malki forest, 20. 9. 1975, Coll. *M. S. Jyrwa* ; 1 ex, Malki forest, 3. 7. 1975, Coll. *R. S. Giri* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Motinagar forest, 25. 9. 1975, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Jaintia Hills, Jowai, 4. 10. 1972, Coll. *A. R. Lahiri*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 550 mm, tail 250 mm.

Remarks : One of the specimens possesses an entire anal shield. The median rows of black spots on the ventral shields vary greatly. In some, two thirds of the ventral scales show the median rows of black spots, and in others very few of them possess it.

23. *Trachischium monticola* (Cantor)

Material : 21 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Madan laban, 20. 7. 1959, Coll. *H. S. P. Majumdar* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Kenche's trace, 20. 4. 1967, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Motinagar forest, 6. 9. 1961, Coll. *S. N. Prasad* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Lalchand Basti, 26. 4. 1973, Coll. *V. D. Srivastava*, 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Shillong,

12. 5. 1973, Coll. *A. S. Rao* ; 1 ex, Shillong, Risa Colony, 2. 5. 1972, Coll. *R. S. Giri*, 1 ex, Risa Colony, 25. 11. 1971, Coll. *S. K. Talukdar* ; 3 ex, Shillong, Pologround, 24. 9. 1972, Coll. *K. Deb* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 25. 2. 1977, Coll. *B. K. Bhattacharjee* ; 1 ex, Malki forest, 22. 6. 1978, Coll. *Nongynrih* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Oakland Road, P. M. G. Banglaw, 28. 7. 1977, Coll. *P. Sina* ; 1 ex, Motinagar forest, 14. 6. 1974, Coll. *R. Zoramthanga* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 8. 8. 1974, Coll. *K. Deb* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, August 1975, Coll. *Asish John* ; 1 ex, Shillong, T. C. Road, 16. 4. 1977, Coll. *Chandan Singh* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 23. 6. 1975, Coll. *R. Mathew* ; 1 ex, Assam, Kaziranga, 22. 2. 1974, Coll. *M. Datta*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 180 mm, tail 30 mm.

Remarks : One of the specimens shows a slightly higher ventral count of 130 scales as against Smith's (1943) highest count of 125.

24. *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider)

Material : 6 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh, Siang district, Mathuri village, 16. 2. 1973, Coll. *R. S. Pillai* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Garo Hills, Rongjeng, 10. 4. 1973, Coll. *S. Biswas* ; 1 ex, Garo Hills, Rongjeng, 46 km of Baghmara, near PWD IB, 23. 2. 1971, Coll. *G. M. Yazdani* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Barapani, 4. 5. 1967, Coll. *S. K. Kakati* ; 1 ex, Barapani, 25. 1. 1972, Coll. *G. M. Yazdani* ; 1 ex, Manipur, Domba, 28. 1. 1977, Coll. *S. G. Patil*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 957 mm, tail 340 mm.

25. *Zaocys nigromarginatus* (Blyth)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh, Subansiri Expedition, Danin, Alt. 1000 meters, 22. 1. 1975, Coll. *J. M. Julka* & party.

Total length : 1150 mm, tail 525 mm.

Family ELAPIDAE

26. *Bungarus fasciatus* (Schneider)

(Banded Krait)

Material : 1 ex, INDIA : Assam, Goalpara, Deoripathar, 21. 9. 1973, Coll. *S. Biswas*.

Total length : 900 mm, tail 80 mm.

27. *Callophis maclellandi* (Reinhardt)

Material : 4 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Risa Colony, 27. 6. 1977, Coll. *B. K. Bhattacharjee* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony,

22. 8. 1972, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Shillong, Fruit garden, 21. 9. 1972, Coll. *K. Deb* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 18. 8. 1977, Coll. *R. S. Giri*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 545 mm, tail 43 mm.

28. ***Naja naja*** (Linnaeus)

(Indian Cobra)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Diengpasohu, 26. 4. 1963, Coll. *V. D. Srivastava* ; 1 ex, Diengpasohu, 27. 4. 1963, Coll. *M. R. Lyndow* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Umroi, 30. 4. 1968, Coll. *R. K. Varshney*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 1210 mm, tail 235 mm.

29. ***Naja hannah*** (Cantor)

(King Cobra)

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Umtham, 29. 10. 1964, Coll. *A. K. Mandal* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Woodland compound 15. 7. 1960, donated by Botanical Survey of India, Shillong ; 1 ex, Assam, Kamrup district, Kulsri river side, 17. 6. 1964, Donated by Botanical Survey of India, Shillong.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 2400 mm, tail 495 mm.

Family VIPERIDAE

30. ***Trimeresurus monticola*** Günther

Material : 13 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Risa Colony, 6. 10. 1971, Coll. *S. K. Talukdar* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Lower New colony, Botanical Survey of India, office compound, date ? Coll. *B. S. I. staff* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 18. 8. 1977, Coll. *B. N. Marbaniang* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 20. 5. 1977, Coll. *E. D. Albinus* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 24. 8. 1976, Coll. *R. Zoramthanga* ; 2 ex, Risa Colony, 22. 7. 1976, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 14. 7. 1976, Coll. *G. B. Chettri* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Pologround, 28. 4. 1976, Coll. *R. Zoramthanga* ; 2 ex, Khasi Hills, Motinagar forest, 29. 8. 1975, Coll. *Varlathanga* ; 2 ex, Khasi Hills, Upper Shillong, Central Potato Research Institute, date ? Coll. *Drs. Khanna and Roy* ; 1 ex, Arunachal Pradesh, Kameng division, 20. 11. 1970, Coll. *A. S. Rao*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 580 mm, tail 116 mm.

30. ***Trimeresurus jerdoni*** Günther

Material : 10 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Risa Colony, 21. 9. 1973, Coll. *R. S. Pillai* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Kenche's trace,

30. 8. 1971, Coll. *S. K. Chanda* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 10. 10. 1972, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Bishnupur, 23. 6. 1966, Coll. *M. K. Sen* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Mawroh, 14. 5. 1964, Coll. *M. R. Rynth* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 19. 10. 1973, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 28. 6. 1972, Coll. *P. B. Thapa* ; 2 ex, Khasi Hills, Woodland compound, 4. 10. 1966, Coll. *G. K. Dey* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 19. 10. 1974, Coll. *Lalualiana* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 21. 9. 1974, Coll. *R. Mathew* ; 1 ex, Risa Colony, 29. 8. 1975, Coll. *R. Vanlalthinga*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 620 mm. tail 85 mm.

31. *Trimeresurus stejnegeri* Schmidt

Material : 2 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Arunachal Pradesh, Kameng division, 20. 1. 1970, Coll. *A. S. Rao* ; 1 ex, Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, 2. 9. 1971, Coll. *R. S. Pillai*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 615 mm, tail 112 mm.

32. *Trimeresurus erythrurus* (Cantor)

Material : 1 ex, juvenile, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Shillong, 14. 8. 1975, Coll. *R. G. Michel*.

33. *Trimeresurus albolabris* ? Gray

Material : 3 ex ; 1 ex, INDIA : Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Mawlai, 3. 10. 1967, Coll. *G. T. Allen* ; 1 ex, Khasi Hills, Shillong, Risa Colony, 30. 6. 1974, Coll. *R. Mathew* ; 1 ex, Shillong, T. C. Road, 31. 7. 1976, Coll. *P. B. Thapa*.

Total length : Largest specimen measures 750 mm, tail 90 mm.

All the specimens show variation. In one specimen, one of the supraoculars is partly divided transversely ; internasals not twice as large as the adjacent scales, separated by a single scale ; eight supralabials, 1st completely separated from the nasal ; caudal count 36, paired ; yellowish green above, pale yellow beneath, tail brown above with a reddish tint. In another specimen the light flank stripe extends towards the tail. *Trimeresurus erythrurus* and *Trimeresurus albolabris* possess many similar characters as is evident from the specimens of both before me. At this stage I do not have anything further to add to the observations of Smith (1943), about retaining them as distinct species or otherwise. The study of more specimens from different niches and belonging to both will only give a clear picture of their correct identity.

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