

## Notes on Malayan reptiles

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Although our knowledge of the reptilian fauna of the Malay Peninsula is now fairly complete, some of the species are known from very few examples and further records are useful in establishing their status in the Malayan fauna and defining the limits of their variation. In the present paper several such occurrences are recorded and a new species of *Lygosoma* is described.

*Systematic.*—*Lygosoma trifasciatum* sp. n.

### SAURIA

#### *Lygosoma trifasciatum* sp. n.

SMITH 1922, p. 271; 1930, p. 38 (*L. larutense* part.).

SMEDLEY 1931 B, p. 112 (*L. larutense* part.).

SWORDER 1933, p. 103 (*L. larutense* part.).

*Type.*—A female from the Cameron Highlands, Pahang, 4,000–5,000 ft. taken in August 1937 by a collector of the Raffles Museum. Snout to vent length 148 mm.; total length 312 mm.; scale-rows, 32.

*Material examined.*—One from the Cameron Highlands, Pahang, 5,000 ft. (Smedley l.c.).

One from the Cameron Highlands (Sworder l.c.).

Six from the Cameron Highlands not previously recorded, one taken in 1931, one in 1932 and four in 1937.

One from Frasers Hill, F.M.S. No record of date or altitude but the locality indicates a height of over 4,000 ft.

*Characters.*—Near *L. larutense*, but distinguished by its larger size, greater number of scale rows (28–32) and by the presence of three more or less interrupted pale yellow bands on the neck and usually of small, scattered pale spots on the dark grayish-brown back and sides.

*Description.*—The pale bands on the neck afford the most conspicuous diagnostic feature. The anterior one, which is usually unbroken, runs over the nape, touching the posterior ends of the parietals; the next is usually more or less broken and is about half the length of the head behind the first; the last, which is often very incomplete, is an equal distance behind the second. Both posterior bands run forward at their lateral terminations and may be confluent with each other and with the first. The irregularly scattered pale spots, when present, are more numerous anteriorly.

*Remarks.*—The same collector who took the four specimens in the Cameron Highlands in 1937 also obtained three eggs about six inches deep in the earth beside a log. I opened one of these and found that the embryo was so far advanced as to be easily recognisable as *L. trifasciatum*, the three pale bands on the neck being as conspicuous as in adults. The eggs are covered with tough skin, whitish but discoloured by contact with the earth. The two that were not opened measure  $22.5 \times 12.5$  mm. and  $22 \times 13$  mm. The former is equally rounded at both ends, the latter slightly pointed at one end.

In recording specimens of this skink as *L. larutense*, Smedley (l.c. p. 113) states: "from a longer series it might be possible to differentiate two varieties, the typical form with 26 scale-rows and without the banded neck and a variety with 28–30 scale-rows, banded neck and attaining a larger size".

Now that the "variety" has been raised to specific rank it is of interest to note that its known distribution and that of the allied *L. larutense* are mutually exclusive. *L. trifasciatum* is found at high altitudes (4,000 ft. to over 5,000 ft.) on the mountains of the main range of the Peninsula and the Tahan massif (Smith l.c.), while *L. larutense* has only been taken on the range of hills in the neighbourhood of Taiping in western Perak, which is separated from the main central range by the valley of the Perak River, and on a hill north of this locality in Kedah (Sworder, l.c.), Sworder's record from Kedah is based on a single specimen from Bukit T'Kabeh, 800 ft. The other recorded altitudes for *L. larutense* are 3,000 and 4,000 ft., and the Kedah specimen is abnormal in having only 24 scale rows. A longer series might prove this to be yet another species.

#### *Lygosoma miodactylum* Blgr.

BOULENGER 1912, p. 98.

SMITH 1930, p. 38.

SMEDLEY 1931 B, p. 113.

Three more specimens have been collected in the Cameron Highlands since those recorded by Smedley (l.c.), and one at Frasers Hill, taken by Sworder in August 1933. This is near the type locality (Semangko Pass) and is the second specimen collected in that region.

#### SERPENTES

#### *Sibynophis collaris* Blgr.

SMITH 1922, p. 265 (*Polyodontophis collaris*); 1930, p. 40.

SMEDLEY 1931 B, p. 114.

There are only two previous records of this snake from the Peninsula, one from Gunong Tahan (Smith l.c. 1922) and one from the Cameron Highlands (Smedley l.c.).

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Three more specimens have since been collected, all from the Cameron Highlands at altitudes of 4,000–5,000 ft., two in 1931 and one in 1938. Details of lepidosis and dimensions are: 1931 (adult), Ventrals, 167; subcaudals, 91; total length, 510 mm.; tail, 150 mm. 1931 (juv.), Ventrals, 161; subcaudals, 96; total length, 198 mm.; tail, 59 mm. 1938 (adult), ventrals, 161; subcaudals, 94; total length, 478 mm.; tail, 158 mm.

Both the larger specimens are very dark in colour above, but the juvenile is light brown, the dark occipital and nuchal bars and vertebral stripe being very distinct.

### *Natrix conspicillata* Günther.

SMITH 1930, p. 43.

SMEDLEY, 1932, p. 14.

In addition to the specimen from the Chikus Forest Reserve, Perak, mentioned by Smedley (l.c.) there is in the collection a somewhat macerated specimen labelled Kemaman, Trengganu, 1893, and one was taken at Sungai Siput, Perak in 1936, bringing the Malay records up to four. Both the specimens from Perak have seven supralabials of which the 3rd and 4th enter the eye. The Kemaman example is typical in having eight of which the 3rd to the 5th touch the eye.

The snake from Sungai Siput was identified by Dr. Malcolm Smith and has been presented to the British Museum.

### *Elaphe prasina* (Blyth).

SMITH 1922, p. 266; 1930, p. 48.

Two specimens of this snake, the second and third recorded from the Peninsula, are in the collection. One was taken in December 1921 on the lower slopes of Gunong Tahan, the scene of the first record, and the other in the Cameron Highlands in 1937, between 4,000 and 5,000 ft. Both are of the characteristic bright green colour and have a distinct pale line along the outer margin of the ventrals.

Gunong Tahan, 1921: ventrals, 206; subcaudals, 114; total length, 945 mm.; tail, 240 mm.; left preocular completely divided, right incompletely, both separated from frontal.

Cameron Highlands, 1937: ventrals, 204; subcaudals, 108; total length, 960 mm.; tail, 240 mm.; preoculars undivided, separated from frontal.

### *Calamaria gimletti* Blgr.

BOULENGER 1912, p. 220.

SWORDER 1925, p. 100; 1929, p. 336.

SMITH 1930, p. 59.

SMEDLEY 1931 A, p. 52.

Two more specimens of this snake have been collected since 1930. One is from Bukit Chintamani, a limestone hill near Bentong, Pahang, August 1935, and the other from Aor Island, South China Sea, June 1938.

The Pahang specimen is unmarked above except for a pair of white spots one cm. from the tip of the tail and another about 1 mm. therefrom. That from Aor Island is more copiously marked than any of the previously recorded examples. There is a broad oblique white band six scales behind the occiput and irregularly disposed white spots, occupying one to three scales in a longitudinal direction, are scattered along the length of the body. They are larger posteriorly and the last three at 23, 12 and 4 mm. from the tip of the tail appear as complete transverse bands in dorsal view, though they do not actually extend down to the ventrals.

Bukit Chintamani, Pahang: Ventrals, 211; subcaudals, 17; total length 204 mm.; tail, 13 mm. Aor Island: ventrals, 230 mm.; subcaudals 11; total length, 165 mm.; tail, 6 mm.

***Collorhabdium williamsoni* Smedley.**

SMEDLEY 1931 B, p. 120.

The species was described from four specimens collected in 1930 and 1931 in the Cameron Highlands; since then one more has been taken in the same locality in 1937.

In the recent example and the two of the original series which are in the Raffles Museum collection the fourth supralabial is as large as the third and the suture between them is vertical, as depicted in the figure B. on pl. II (l.c.) but not as in text-fig. 3a (l.c.), in which the suture is drawn oblique and the fourth supralabial small. In the 1937 specimen the dark coloration of the body extends very broadly onto the ventral shields, so that the white central area of each ventral is less than a third of its total width, except near the head and tail, where the dark lateral areas are relatively narrower.

Cameron Highlands, May, 1937: ventrals, 165; subcaudals, 26; total length, 250 mm.; tail, 27 mm.

***Enhydris punctata* (Gray).**

SMEDLEY 1931 A, p. 53.

The only previous record of this snake in the Peninsula is from Kemaman, Trengganu (Smedley l.c.) where five immature specimens were collected in 1893. Another immature example was taken on Gunong Pulai, Johore in January 1934. It was identified by Dr. Malcolm Smith and is now in the collection of the British Museum. Ventrals, 140; subcaudals, 32.

***Aipysurus eydouxi* (Gray).**

BOULENGER 1912, p. 195.

SMITH 1930, p. 71.

SMEDLEY 1931 A, p. 54.

Four specimens were taken in 1933 and 1934 from seine nets (*pukat*) at Siglap on the sandy southern shore of Singapore

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Island. Their capture was incidental to the collecting of marine fish and invertebrates and appearances suggest that they are quite common. All four have 17 scale rows.

Ventrals, 141, 140, 139, 137; subcaudals, 24, 23, 22, 21.

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