



IX.—Descriptions of three new frogs in the collection of the British Museum

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IX.—*Descriptions of Three new Frogs in the Collection of the British Museum.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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Rana hymenopus.

Vomerine teeth in long, transverse, slightly arched, oblique series between the choanæ, originating at the anterior corners of the latter and terminating on a line with their posterior borders. Head a little broader than long, much depressed; snout rounded, scarcely projecting, a little longer than the eye; canthus rostralis rounded; loreal region very oblique; nostril a little nearer the eye than the tip of the snout; interorbital width three-fourths that of the upper eyelid; tympanum very distinct, two-thirds the diameter of the eye. Fingers rather slender, obtusely pointed, first and second equal; subarticular tubercles rather large and very prominent. Hind limb rather slender; tibio-tarsal articulation reaching the tip of the snout, heels overlapping when the limbs are folded at right angles to the body; tibia $4\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, $1\frac{3}{8}$ times in length of head and body; toes slender, obtusely pointed, half-webbed, three phalanges of fourth and two of third and fifth free; outer metatarsals united in the basal half; subarticular tubercles moderately large and very prominent; inner metatarsal tubercle oval, very prominent, one-third the length of the inner toe; no outer tubercle. Skin smooth; a glandular fold from below the eye to the shoulder. Greyish olive above, with dark dots and irregular spots; limbs with regular dark cross-bars; hinder side of thighs dark brown, with small yellow spots; lower parts white, throat spotted with brown.

From snout to vent 57 mm.

A single female specimen, labelled "South Africa," presented by Sir Andrew Smith.

In its half-webbed toes this frog constitutes an interesting link between the typical *Ranæ* and the group *Strongylopus* of Tschudi.

Rana pumilio.

Vomerine teeth in very short oblique series close to the anterior corners of the choanæ. Head slightly longer than broad, much depressed; snout obtusely pointed, projecting, slightly longer than the eye; canthus rostralis rounded;

loreal region very oblique, feebly concave; nostril equidistant from the eye and the tip of the snout; interorbital space as broad as the upper eyelid; tympanum very distinct, two-thirds to three-fourths the diameter of the eye. Fingers obtusely pointed, first, second, and fourth equal; subarticular tubercles moderately large, moderately prominent. Hind limb rather short, the tibio-tarsal articulation reaching the eye, the heels meeting or very feebly overlapping when the limbs are folded at right angles to the body; tibia a little more than twice in length of head and body; toes obtusely pointed, two-thirds webbed, three phalanges of fourth and one of fifth free; subarticular tubercles rather small, moderately prominent; two small metatarsal tubercles, inner oval and about one-third the length of the first toe, outer round; a small round tubercle on the tarsus just below the heel. Skin smooth or granulate above, with four interrupted narrow glandular folds along the back and a stronger dorso-lateral; a glandular fold from the eye to the shoulder; sides granulate. Greyish olive above, with a whitish vertebral band or narrow streak, the dorso-lateral folds also whitish; back with dark spots or a dark band on each side of the light vertebral; a dark brown band from the end of the snout to the eye, continued behind the latter as a large temporal spot; tympanum reddish brown; a white streak along the upper lip; limbs with dark cross-bands; a white line along the inner side of the tibia; hinder side of thighs brown, with or without two interrupted white streaks; throat and belly white, lower surface of limbs flesh-colour. Male with a blackish external vocal sac on each side of the throat, close to the mandible, as in *R. mascareniensis*.

The male measures 27 mm. from snout to vent, the female 31.

Two specimens, the female with the body distended with eggs, were obtained by M. F. Lataste at Medine, Senegal, in September 1885. They were identified by me at the time as *R. mascareniensis*.

The smallest African frog of the genus *Rana*. Intermediate between *R. mascareniensis*, D. & B., and *R. trinodis*, Boettg.

Microhyla latastii.

Habit rather slender. Head as long as broad; snout obtusely pointed, as long as the orbit, projecting; interorbital space much broader than the upper eyelid, a little broader than the space between the nostrils. Fingers and toes mode-

rately elongate, the tips dilated into very small discs; sub-articular tubercles very prominent; first finger much shorter than second; three very prominent carpal tubercles; toes one-third webbed; two small but very prominent metatarsal tubercles, not larger than the subarticular tubercles, inner oval, outer round. Tibio-tarsal articulation reaching the eye; tibia four times as long as broad, a little more than half the length of head and body. Back with scattered small warts. Pale brown above, with a large dark brown marking, finely edged with white, from between the eyes to the vent, with three curved sinuses on each side, narrowest on the occiput, broadest on the sacral region; no dark lateral band; lower parts whitish, throat of male brown, darker on the chin.

From snout to vent 23 mm.

Two specimens, male and female, from Saigon, Cochin China, taken by M. Holbé in 1887, formed part of the Lataste Collection. Examples of *M. inornata*, Blgr., and *M. achatina*, Boie, were collected by M. Holbé in the same locality.

The more extensive web between the toes, the more slender hind limb, and the absence of a dark lateral band readily distinguish this frog from *M. achatina*.

X.—*Descriptions of Four new Snakes in the Collection of the British Museum.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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Cylindrophis aruensis.

Diameter of eye not quite one-third its distance from the nostril. Snout as long as the distance between the eyes. Rostral as deep as broad; nasals in contact behind the rostral; frontal as long as broad, as long as the prefrontals, little larger than the supraocular, larger than the parietal; six upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye. Scales in 24 rows; no enlarged ventrals; subcaudals 6. Reddish brown, with white transverse spots forming two alternating series on the back and cross-bars on the belly, some of which are complete, others interrupted and the two halves alternating; a pair of large white blotches on the nape; lower surface of tail white.

Total length 170 mm.