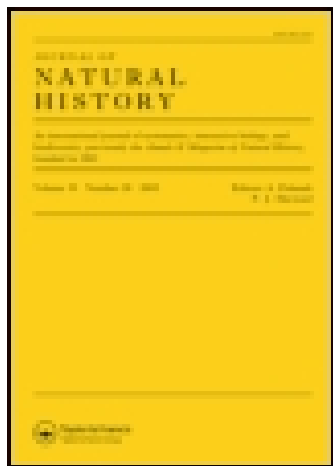


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XXXVII.—Description of a new elapine snake of the genus *Apisthocalamus*, Blgr., from New Guinea

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punctata, prothorace æqualiter et subtiliter punctato, medio profunde longitudinaliter sulcato, lateribus sat leviter arcuatis, postice plus minusve plicatis, elytris fortiter punctatis, lineis geminatis longitudinalibus postice impressis, pygidio grosse fere rugose punctato; mesosterno haud producto, tibiis anticis bidentatis.

Long. 13-15 mm.; lat. max. 8-9 mm.

Hab. E. China, Tientsin.

A considerable number of specimens were collected from April to June 1906 by Mr. F. M. Thomson.

It is nearly related to *M. specularis*, Ohaus, and *M. vittatocollis*, Burm., and the colour is that of the latter except that it is almost uniform above, only the clypeus, the lateral margins of the prothorax, and the elytra being a shade lighter. It is smaller than either of those species, and the curious corrugation of the posterior part of the sides of the prothorax distinguishes it at a glance from all. This corrugation is variable in its extent, but is almost invariably a very marked feature. The upper surface of the insect is strongly and closely punctured, except the prothorax and scutellum, of which the puncturation is fine. The pygidium is coarsely punctured and the sides of the body are thinly pubescent beneath. The mesosternum is pointed, but not produced beyond the coxæ, and the front tibiæ are bidentate in both sexes.

I printed in 1899 a few synonymical notes relating to *Mimela*. To these I may add the following:—

M. lucidula, Hope, and *lathamii*, Hope, belong to *M. splendens*, Gyll.

M. glabra, Hope, type, is a female of *M. downesi*, Hope.

M. limbata, Burm., and *M. pomacea*, Bates, are *M. passerinii*, Hope,

M. cowalis, Ohaus, is *M.* ("*Anomala*") *inscripta*, Nonf.

M. pyroscelis, Hope, is a species of *Anomala*.

XXXVII.—*Description of a new Elapine Snake of the Genus Apisthocalamus, Blgr., from New Guinea.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

Apisthocalamus loennbergii.

Snout short, broadly rounded. Rostral a little broader than deep, the portion visible from above measuring one

fourth to one third its distance from the frontal; internasals about half the length of the præfrontals; frontal once and one fifth to once and one third as long as broad, as long as or a little shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals; nostril between two nasals, narrowly separated from the internasal and the first labial; præocular once and a half to twice as long as deep, in contact with or narrowly separated from the posterior nasal; one postocular (exceptionally two); temporals 1+1 or 2; six upper labials (exceptionally seven), third and fourth (or third, fourth, and fifth) entering the eye, last largest; three or four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are as large as the posterior. Scales in 15 rows. Ventrals 213-218; anal divided; subcaudals 22-32. Dark olive-brown above, lateral scales yellowish in the centre; upper lip and lower parts yellowish, without spots; indications of a yellowish nuchal collar may be present.

Total length 590 mm.; tail 40.

Four specimens from Dutch New Guinea, north of Fak Fak, altitude 1700 feet, obtained by Mr. A. E. Pratt, to whom we owe the discovery of another species of the same genus (*A. pratti*, Blgr.) a few years ago.

The present species is named after Prof. E. Lönnberg, who described in these 'Annals' another member of the same group under the name of *Pseudapisthocalamus nymani*. It is still doubtful whether *Apisthocalamus* and *Pseudapisthocalamus* can be regarded as valid genera, so closely are they related to the previously described *Toxicocalamus*. The species, six in number, all from New Guinea, are, at any rate, easily distinguished by means of the following characters:—

A. Præocular present; scales in 15 rows; anal divided.

a. Nostril between two nasals.

Two postoculars; ventrals 196; subcaudals 50 or more	<i>Apisthocalamus lorice</i> , Blgr.
One postocular; ventrals 190; subcaudals 41	<i>Apisthocalamus pratti</i> , Blgr.
One postocular (exceptionally two); ventrals 213-218; subcaudals 22-32 ..	[Blgr. <i>Apisthocalamus loennbergii</i> ,

b. Nasal single; ventrals 196-205; subcaudals 26-29 [Lönnb.
Pseudapisthocalamus nymani,

B. No præocular; nostril between two nasals.

Scales in 15 rows; ventrals 261; anal entire; subcaudals 25	[Blgr. <i>Toxicocalamus stanleyanus</i> ,
Scales in 17 rows; ventrals 299-305; anal divided; subcaudals 30-31	[Blgr. <i>Toxicocalamus longissimus</i> ,