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### XVI.—Description of two snakes from the 'Challenger' collections

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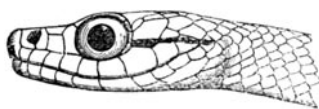
garded as having a generic value; but he still seemed to look with favour on, and later he and his co-worker E. Desor, and again still later Desor separately, made some use of, the partitions. Alex. Agassiz, adopting his father's distinctions, has separated off as a subgenus the forms in which the partitions seemed to be better developed. These differences I have shown in these observations to depend on age more than, rather than as much as, on species; and the last reason for separating *Peronella* (A. Ag.) from *Laganum* is hereby removed.

The real case would seem to be best and most truthfully represented by allowing that, in the case of Laganidæ, some of what we call specific characters are by no means definitively fixed.

XVI.—*Description of two Snakes from the 'Challenger' Collections.* By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S. &c.

AMONG the Snakes collected by the naturalists of the 'Challenger' Expedition there were two which are apparently undescribed. They, with a number of others which were desiderata in the British Museum, are now deposited in the national collection.

*Tropidonotus dendrophis*.



Habit slender; head resembling that of *Dendrophis*; eye very large. Scales in seventeen rows, strongly keeled. Ventrals 157; anal divided; subcaudals 100. Anterior frontals subtruncated in front, nearly as long as posterior. Loreal large, somewhat longer than high. One præocular, reaching to the upper surface of the head, but not to the vertical. Three narrow postoculars. Upper labials nine, the fourth, fifth, and sixth of which enter the orbit, and are narrow on account of the large size of the eye. Temporals irregular in size and arrangement; two are in contact with the postoculars. The maxillary teeth form one continuous series, and

increase somewhat in size posteriorly. Greenish brown, with a series of small yellowish spots along each side of the back, each spot being surrounded with a deeper tint of the ground-colour. Lower parts white, with black spots, which from the second third of the length of the trunk become more numerous, those along the middle of the posterior third forming a central series. Each subcaudal with a large black spot on the side.

One specimen from Zamboanga (Philippine Islands); it is 36 inches long, the tail measuring 11 inches.

*Dipsas aruanus.*

Scales in 23 rows, those of the vertebral series large, subhexagonal. Ventrals 258; anal entire; subcaudals 90. Loreal quadrangular, nearly as high as long. One præocular, reaching the vertical; two postoculars. Nine upper labials, the fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the orbit. Temporals rather irregular, 2+3+3. Two pairs of chin-shields, subequal in size. Brownish olive, with very indistinct and irregular markings. Traces of a temporal streak. Lower parts yellowish, dotted with grey on the posterior parts of the abdomen; subcaudals nearly uniform, like the back.

A single specimen from Wokau, Aru Islands; it is 51 inches long, the tail measuring 10 inches.

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XVII.—*Notes on some Indian Fishes in the Collection of the British Museum.* By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S. &c.

*Carcharias Murrayi.*



Snout short, obtuse, the distance between the mouth and the extremity of the snout being less than the distance between the inner angles of the nostrils. Nostrils nearly midway between the extremity of the snout and the mouth. The teeth of the upper jaw are of moderate size; but their number cannot be exactly given, owing to the accidental absence of