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XXXV.—Remarks on the Herpetological fauna of Mount Kina Baloo, North Borneo

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Tate has described two species, *A. nigricollus* and *A. tasmanica*, from Tasmania; I have not seen specimens of either of them.

3 Fairfax Road, Bedford Park, Chiswick, W.,
January 25, 1891.

XXXV.—*Remarks on the Herpetological Fauna of Mount Kina Baloo, North Borneo.* By G. A. BOULENGER.

THE first Reptiles and Batrachians obtained on Kina Baloo were described by me in 1887 *, four new species being established. The specimens, which were the property of Mr. W. Whitehead, did not find their way to the British Museum; for on his return home Mr. Whitehead disposed of them, together with many others which he had collected in North Borneo and Palawan, in favour of the Paris Museum. I am glad to say that recently, through the kindness of Prof. Vaillant, duplicate specimens from that collection have been received by the British Museum. So that of the twelve valid new species discovered by Mr. Whitehead on Mount Kina Baloo as many as five are now represented by types or co-types in the National Collection. Mr. Whitehead's collection of Reptiles and Batrachians formed the subject of an extensive paper by Dr. F. Mocquard †, in which numerous species and two genera are described as new, and upon which I now beg to offer some remarks.

On receiving at the end of January of this year a copy of Dr. Mocquard's paper, I wrote to the author that, whilst regarding his *Gymnodactylus baluensis*, *Hemidactylus craspedotus*, *Ablabes præfrontalis*, *Culamaria lateralis*, *Helicopsoides typicus*, *Rhacophorus acutirostris*, *Bufo fuliginosus*, *B. spinulifer*, *Nectophryne misera*, and *N. maculata* as valid species, I entertained serious doubts respecting the others, which I felt inclined to identify as follows:—

Pelturagonia cephalum = *Japalura nigrilabris*, Ptrs.

Tropidonotus maculatus, var. *torquatus* = *T. chrysargus*, Boie.

Rana decorata = *R. luctuosa*, Ptrs.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (5) xx. pp. 95–97.

† Nouv. Arch. du Mus. (3) ii. 1890, pp. 115–168, pls. vii.–xi. Preliminary diagnoses were published in 'Le Naturaliste' for 1890.

Rana obsoleta = *R. signata*, Gthr.

Rana paradoxa * = *R. Kuhlii*, D. & B.

Ixalus nubilus = *R. natatrix*, Gthr.

I also informed him that I held his new genus *Helicopsoides* to be identical with *Lepidognathus*, established about the same time by Van Lidth de Jeude, and that the *Rhacophorus* referred by him to *R. cruciger*, Blyth, could not belong to that Ceylonese species, suggesting its possible identity with *R. leucomystax*, of which *R. maculatus* and *Rana longipes* of his list (p. 122) are synonyms. I have, however, since received a new *Rhacophorus* from Baram, described in the last number of these 'Annals' as *R. macrotis*, which may be the same as that noticed by him under the name of *R. cruciger*.

Dr. Mocquard replied that he agreed as to the identifications of *Trop. maculatus*, var. *torquatus*, *Helicopsoides*, as he had himself independently found out, *Rana decorata* and *R. obsoleta*, but reserved his opinion concerning the others.

I will now endeavour to discuss, and, if possible, clear up these questions, as well as one or two others which have turned up on perusal of Dr. Mocquard's contribution.

1. *Pelturagonia cephalum*, Mocq.

On comparison of the description and figures given by Mocquard and a female specimen received from the Paris Museum with the very short description given by Peters and the young male specimen described in the 'Catalogue of Lizards,' I am fully convinced of the identity of this supposed new Agamoid with *Japalura nigrilabris* of Peters. The young male from Labuan shows distinctly the enlarged lateral scales at the base of the tail, which are, however, very much less developed than in the adult; and the female from Kina Baloo has a trace of the gular fold, the presence of which is denied by Mocquard. The enlarged caudal scales in the male do not, in my opinion, afford a character of sufficient importance for separating generically *J. nigrilabris* from the other species of *Japalura*.

2. *Helicopsoides*, Mocq., and *Lepidognathus*, Jeude.

As I have mentioned above, Dr. Mocquard admits that the two genera are identical, although the Bornean species must be held distinct from the Sumatran. *Helicopsoides* was described in the 1st July 1890 number of 'Le Naturaliste,'

* Name preoccupied by Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 1766.

and both Dr. Mocquard and myself received Dr. de Jeude's separate copy containing the description of *Lepidognathus* towards the end of the same month. It is therefore impossible for me to decide which description has priority, although I incline to believe it is Dr. Mocquard's; on the other hand, the name *Helicopsoides* is so defectively constructed that I for one would not hesitate to employ the name *Lepidognathus* if the genus should stand. But it is my opinion that both genera, together with my *Calamohydrus*, should be united with Günther's *Opisthotropis*, founded upon a West-African species, and which may be defined as follows:—

OPISTHOTROPIS.

- Opisthotropis*, Günth. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) ix. 1872, p. 18.
Calamohydrus, Bouleng. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) ii. 1888, p. 43.
Helicopsoides, Mocq. Le Natur. xii. 1890, p. 154.
Lepidognathus, Jeude, in M. Weber, Zool. Ergebn. ii. p. 186 (1890).

Maxillary teeth small, equal, 20 to 25; mandibular teeth small, equal. Head small, not distinct from neck; eye small, with round pupil; nostril directed upwards, in a divided or semidivided nasal. Body cylindrical; scales finely striated and keeled, without apical pits, in seventeen or nineteen rows. Tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows.

Four species are known, distinguished as follows:—

A. Scales in 17 rows; nasals separated
by the internasals.

Præfrontal single; 8 upper labials,
fifth entering the eye 1. *O. atra*, Gthr. (W. Africa).

Præfrontal single; 8 upper labials,
none entering the eye 2. *O. Andersonii*, Blgr. (Hong Kong).

Two præfrontals; 12 upper labials,
none entering the eye 3. *O. rugosa*, Jeude (Sumatra).

B. Scales in 19 rows; nasals in con-
tact behind the rostral 4. *O. typica*, Mocq. (Borneo).

3. *Ablabes periops*, var. *præfrontalis*, Mocq.

This form is undoubtedly specifically distinct from *A. periops*, Gthr.; the two species constitute in my opinion a new genus, which I propose to call

HYDRABLABES, gen. nov.

Maxillary teeth small, equal, about 18; mandibular teeth small, equal. Head small, not distinct from neck; eye

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small, with round pupil; nostril valvular, an oblique slit between two nasals; three pairs of chin-shields. Body cylindrical, elongate; scales smooth, without apical pits, in fifteen or seventeen rows. Tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows.

The affinities of this genus are with *Opisthotropis*, not with *Ablabes*.

Two species from Borneo:—

Scales in 17 rows; ventrals 190-209; two
præfrontals 1. *H. periops*, Gthr.

Scales in 15 rows; ventrals 178-180; a single
præfrontal 2. *H. præfrontalis*, Mocq.

4. *Rana paradoxa*, Mocq.

Rana Kuhlîi is a very variable species, and I have repeatedly drawn attention to the great development of the terminal disks of its toes, which would warrant its removal to a distinct genus if such a character were regarded as generic, as it used to be in former times. This character appears to have led Dr. Mocquard astray in describing specimens of this species as a new form, *R. paradoxa*, to which he assigns a position widely remote from *R. Kuhlîi*. I have now before me one of the types of *R. paradoxa*, and can state that it is identical with *R. Kuhlîi*, as I had suspected from the description. I have described male specimens from Burma with the same enormous head, in a paper * which has been overlooked by Dr. Mocquard when dealing with the adhesive ventral disk of certain tadpoles.

5. *Rana Whiteheadi*, Blgr.

Doubts having been expressed as to the distinctness of this species from *R. jerboa*, Gthr., I have compared two specimens, male and female, received from the Paris Museum, with the types of the latter species, and have no doubt as to the correctness of the course followed by me. In *R. jerboa* the choanæ are considerably larger, the lateral fold is as well marked as in *R. erythræa* and continuous throughout, and the hind limbs are much longer, the tibia measuring four fifths of the length of head and body, as against two thirds in *R. Whiteheadi*.

6. *Ixalus nubilus*, Mocq.

The fact that all specimens of *Rana natatrix* from the Philippines are devoid of vomerine teeth, as I am informed by

* Ann. Mus. Genova, (2) v. 1887, p. 482.

Dr. Boettger, who has lately examined a considerable number, shows that I was probably mistaken in uniting with it the Bornean *Ixalus guttatus*, Gthr., which has more or less distinct vomerine teeth. The so-called *Ixalus natator* is nevertheless no true *Ixalus*, having the digital structure of *Rana latopalmata*, *livida*, *formosa*, and *guttata*, to which it stands in close relation. If the absence of vomerine teeth be considered in this case a valid ground for generic separation, then *Ixalus natator* must bear the name *Staurois natator*, which was proposed for it by Cope in 1865; and the name *Micrixalus*, proposed by me in 1888 for South Indian and Ceylonese species, will become a synonym of *Staurois*. Whatever the views on this matter may be, *Ixalus nubilus* of Mocquard is not an *Ixalus*, and, judging from the description and figure, I can see no reason for separating it from *Rana natatrix*.

XXXVI.—On the Necessity for the Abandonment of the Generic Name *Cyclostoma*, with Suggestions regarding others involved in this Genus. By R. BULLEN NEWTON, F.G.S., British Museum (Natural History).

MUCH confusion has existed since Lamarckian days regarding the Molluscan name of *Cyclostoma*. It was first established by Lamarck in 1799 (Mém. Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris, vol. i. p. 74), to include the Linnæan type of *Turbo scalaris*, this same type being afterwards used for his genus *Scalaria* in 1801 (Syst. Anim. sans Vert. p. 88).

Without a single reference to his genus of 1799 Lamarck again introduces *Cyclostoma* in his 1801 work, p. 87, this time attaching as its type the *Turbo delphinus*, Linnæus, which, curiously enough, was made to stand for his genus *Delphinula* in 1803 (Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris, vol. iv. p. 108).

We are thus confronted with the fact that two Linnæan types have been occupied by Lamarck for four of his genera. Priority of nomenclature appears to have been little understood in these early times; and it is one of the difficulties of the modern investigator to unravel this and numerous other inconsistencies perpetrated by past authors.

The next reference to *Cyclostoma* appears under the authorship of Draparnaud, 1801 (Tabl. Moll. Terr. Fluv. France, pp. 37, 38), who employed for his type the shell so familiar to all students of conchology, viz. the *Nerita elegans*