

station in Europe. An example of the Mealy Redpoll (*Fringilla linaria*) was caught on the 14th of September, 1890; a Lesser White-throat (*Sylvia curruca*) was caught seventeen days later; a Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus superciliosus*) after a further interval of fourteen days; and a Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) six days later still. In the meantime, on the 11th of October in the same year, the fifth specimen exhibited had been caught at the Black Rock Lighthouse in County Mayo, and proved to be a Short-toed Lark (*Alauda brachydactyla*).

Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on an abnormal growth of the bill of a Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), and on the head of a Pheasant with the upper mandible entirely wanting, which had been forwarded to him by Mr. E. L. Layard, F.Z.S.

The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on Transcaspian Reptiles.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

[Received October 28, 1891.]

Since the publication, in 1888, of Dr. Boettger's excellent account of the herpetological results of the Radde-Walter Expedition to Transcaspia<sup>1</sup>, the British Museum has acquired, partly through the kind mediation of Dr. Boettger himself, a large number of Reptiles from the same district, which enable me to supplement the above work and to add six species which have not been recorded before from the Russian Empire. The fact of the occurrence so far west of the Indian species *Eumeces scutatus*, *Lycodon striatus*, and *Dipsos trigonata* is of great interest, as is also the rediscovery of *Ophiomorus brevipes*, hitherto known from a single specimen preserved in the Calcutta Museum.

The material upon which these notes are based consists of the following series:—

1. The first set of duplicates of Dr. Radde's collection, 30 specimens, including types of *Phrynocephalus raddii*, Bttg. Received in 1888.
2. 22 specimens from Ashabad, collected by M. C. Eylandt. Received in 1890.
3. 28 specimens from Ashabad and Tedshen, near Merv. Received in exchange from the Warsaw Museum in 1890.
4. 7 specimens obtained by M. P. A. Warentzoff at Ashabad. Received in 1891.
5. 20 specimens from Bokhara, the Copet Dagh near Ashabad, Achal, and Alexandrowski. Received in exchange from M. P. Nazaroff, 1891.

<sup>1</sup> "Die Reptilien und Batrachier Transkaspiciens," Zool. Jahrb. iii. 1888, pp. 871-972, pl. xxxiv.

6. 73 specimens obtained by M. C. Eylandt at Puli Hatun at the confluence of the Geshef-Rud and the Hari-Rud. Received in 1891.

*TERATOSCINCUS SCINCUS*, Schleg.

I have now six Transcaspien specimens before me, measuring from 40 to 90 millim. from snout to vent: five from Ashabad (Eylandt and one from Puli Hatun. In one of these specimens (from Ashabad) the scales on the back of the head are larger than on the snout, as described by Boettger, the five others having them smaller than on the snout or at any rate not larger. Nostril between the rostral and four nasals; upper nasals in contact with each other behind the rostral in the specimens from Ashabad, separated by one scale in the one from Puli Hatun. Mental as long as broad or longer. 29 to 31 scales round the middle of the body. Head variegated with dark brown; nape and back with black cross-bands, the anterior of which are crescentic.

*CROSSOBAMON EVERSMANNI*, Wieg.

This Gecko must be one of the commonest Sand-Lizards in Transcaspien, as every collection made in that district contains numerous specimens. The number of præanal pores varies from six to nine.

*GYMNODACTYLUS CASPIUS*, Eichw.

The Museum now possesses the following series of specimens, in all of which I have counted the longitudinal rows of ventral scales (V.) and (in the males) the femoro-præanal pores (P.) :—

			V.	P.	
1.	♂.	Krasnowodsk.	St. Petersburg Mus.	26	29
2.	♂.	Ak-kala, near Astrabad.	"	26	24
3.	♂.	"	"	28	24
4.	♂.	Ashabad.	Eylandt.	26	26
5.	♂.	"	"	26	26
6.	♀.	"	"	26	
7.	♀.	"	"	24	
8.	♂.	"	Warentzoff.	28	31
9.	♂.	"	"	28	28
10.	♀.	"	Warsaw Mus.	26	
11.	Yg.	"	"	26	
12.	♀.	Copet Dagh.	Nazaroff.	28	
13.	♀.	"	"	28	
14.	♀.	Bokhara.	"	30	
15.	♂.	Durun.	Radde.	24	26
16.	♀.	Tachta.	"	26	
17.	♂.	Puli Hatun.	Eylandt.	26	28
18.	Yg. ♂.	"	"	28	29
19.	Yg. ♂.	"	"	24	30

Thus we see that the number of scales across the belly varies in these Transcaspien specimens from 24 to 30, and the number of pores from 24 to 31 (34 in one specimen examined by Boettger),

thus closely approaching, with respect to these characters, Strauch's *G. fedtschenkoi*, which is described as having 30 to 32 rows of ventrals, and 34 to 37 pores. In fact, one of the specimens (no. 16) in the above list has been referred by Boettger to *G. fedtschenkoi*. As to the other characters taken from the tubercles on the back of the head and body, I find so much variation within certain limits in our specimens, all undoubtedly of one and the same species, that I should have endorsed Boettger's opinion that *G. fedtschenkoi* may after all not be specifically separable from *G. caspius*, if it were not for the recent accession of a specimen from Kelif, Bokhara, which I regard as representing the true *G. fedtschenkoi*.

#### GYMNODACTYLUS FEDTSCHENKOI, Strauch.

A single specimen from Kelif, Bokhara. Tubercles smaller than in *G. caspius*, more as in *G. scaber*, strongly keeled but not trihedral on the back, where they form 12 series; round and convex, not keeled, on the occiput and temples. 30 scales across the middle of the belly. Although a female, the specimen shows, as mere impressions, a series of 29 femoro-præanal pores.

#### EUBLEPHARIS MACULARIUS, Blyth.

I have related (Ann. & Mag. N. H. vi. 1890, p. 352) the curious circumstance under which the presence of this Lizard near Ashabad was ascertained by M. Eylandt.

#### EREMIAS GUTTULATA, Licht.

I have examined specimens from the Copet Dagh (Nazaroff) and Puli Hatun (Eylandt). As I have not found specimens of *Lacerta muralis* among the collections made in those localities, it is probable that the Lizards mentioned by Boettger (*l. c.* p. 907) as having been seen, but not captured, by Walter on the northern slope of the Copet Dagh belonged to *Eremias guttulata*.

#### EUMECES SCUTATUS, Theobald.

This Scink was known from Sind, Cutch, the Punjab, and Cashmere. Its discovery by M. Eylandt so far west as Puli Hatun is therefore of considerable importance. All the 15 specimens examined have 21 scales round the middle of the body and two azygous postmentals; in one specimen the frontoparietals form a very short median suture, in the others the frontal is in contact with the interparietal. Pale brown or olive-grey above, white beneath; the small specimens have three darker longitudinal bands and are spotted with black, the black spots being crowded and intermixed with white ones on the lateral bands; upper surfaces and sides of tail with black spots very regularly disposed, a spot occupying every other scale in each longitudinal series. These markings may almost completely disappear in the adult. The largest specimen measures 300 millim., the tail entering for 180.

*E. scutatus* occurs at Puli Hatun in company with *E. schneideri*, both species being well represented in M. Eylandt's collection.

## OPHIOMOROUS BREVIPES, Blanf.

This species, the type of Blanford's genus *Zygnopsis* or *Zygnidopsis*, was established upon a single specimen, with the head slightly injured, obtained at Sáadatabád, a village about 100 miles south-west of Karman, on the road to Shiraz; this specimen, figured in the 'Zoology of Eastern Persia,' pl. vii. fig. 4, is preserved in the Calcutta Museum. In 1879, two specimens from the Southern Coast of Persia or Baluchistan were referred by Blanford to the same species<sup>1</sup>. A few years later, when preparing the Catalogue of Lizards, I came to the conclusion that the latter specimens belong to a species distinct from *O. brevipes*, for which I proposed the name of *O. blanfordii*, and this view is now fully confirmed on the rediscovery, at Puli Hatun, of the true *O. brevipes*. 10 specimens were sent by M. Eylandt. They differ at first sight from *O. blanfordii* in the less depressed, more conical snout, and the somewhat larger eye; they further differ in having 22 scales round the body instead of 20, and the interparietal as broad as long instead of longer than broad. Nostril nearer the rostral than to the anterior loreal; frontonasal two fifths to one half the length of the frontal, which is a little longer than broad; usually, only the first supraocular forms a suture with the præfrontal, but sometimes the second also, as in *O. blanfordii*; interparietal as long as broad or a little broader; a pair of enlarged nuchals may be present; fifth upper labial largest; two azygous postmentals. Length of hind limb  $3\frac{2}{3}$  to  $4\frac{2}{3}$  times in the distance between the shoulder and the thigh.

Coloration as described and figured by Blanford. The largest specimen measures 95 millim. from snout to vent.

## ERYX JACULUS, L.

All the specimens I have examined fall into Boettger's var. *miliaris*, Pall., and I record the following numbers from four specimens in the British Museum. Under *a* is given the number of scales from eye to eye, *b* from eye to nasal, *c* round the eye, *d* upper labials, *e* across middle of body, *f* ventrals, *g* subcaudals.

	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>e.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>g.</i>
1. Ashabad ( <i>Radde</i> ) .....	7	4	13	13	45	185	23
2. " ( <i>Eylandt</i> ).....	7	4	12-13	12	45	179	24
3. " ( <i>Warsaw Mus.</i> )	8	5	13-14	14	49	180	27
4. Puli Hatun ( <i>Eylandt</i> ) .	9	4	13	12	47	188	21

I find the following numbers in three specimens from E. Turkestan:—

Ilisk ( <i>Lansdell</i> ) .....	{ 8	4	11	11	45	183	21
	{ 9	4	12-11	11-10	43	185	20
	{ 9	3-4	10	10-11	45	172	20

## LYCODON STRIATUS, Shaw.

A perfectly typical example, with 177 ventrals and 66 subcaudals, from Puli Hatun, extends to Transcaspia the range of this common

<sup>1</sup> Both are now in the British Museum, thanks to Mr. Blanford's generosity.

Indian Snake, which is known from Sind, the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces, and the hills below Simla to Southern India<sup>1</sup>.

*PSEUDOCYCLOPHIS WALTERI*, Bttg.

Since the description of this species by Boettger in 1888, from a single specimen obtained by Dr. Walter in Transcaspia, close to the North-eastern limit of Persia, I have examined a second specimen found in Sind by Mr. Blanford. Quite recently the British Museum has received, through M. Warentzoff, a half-grown specimen, from Ashabad. It has 235 ventrals and 73 subcaudals. Loreal absent. The upper surface of the head, behind the snout, and the nape blackish; the blackish cross-bars or transverse series of spots well marked on the whole body, but absent from the tail.

*ZAMENIS RHODORHACHIS*, Jan.

This species may be added to the list of Transcaspiian Reptiles, as M. Zaroudnoi's notes<sup>2</sup> on a dark grey Snake with a bright red vertebral stripe, seen by him at Gjarmaou, Ashabad, Merv, and Tedshen, evidently refer to it. I may add that I now regard *Z. rhodorhachis* (= *Gonyosoma dorsale*, And.) and *Z. ladacensis* as colour varieties of one and the same species, which is perfectly separable from both *Z. ventrimaculatus* and *Z. karelinii*. The South-western Asian species of *Zamenis* may be distinguished as follows:—

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| A. Scales in 17 rows, smooth; posterior chin-shields in contact with each other .....                         | 1. <i>Z. mucosus</i> , L.            |
| B. Scales in 19 (exceptionally 17) rows, smooth; posterior chin-shields separated from each other by scales.  |                                      |
| <i>a.</i> Frontal not or but slightly wider than the supraocular, more than once and a half as long as broad. |                                      |
| Ventrals rather indistinctly angulate laterally; scales with two apical pits .....                            | 2. <i>Z. gemonensis</i> , Laur.      |
| Ventrals very distinctly angulate laterally; scales with a single apical pit .....                            | 3. <i>Z. dahlii</i> , Fitz.          |
| <i>b.</i> Frontal anteriorly considerably wider than the supraocular.   |                                      |
| <i>α.</i> Nine upper labials, two of which enter the eye.   |                                      |
| Ventrals 214-255; subcaudals 124-145...   | 4. <i>Z. rhodorhachis</i> , Jan.     |
| Ventrals 199-211; subcaudals 82-99 .....  | 5. <i>Z. ventrimaculatus</i> , Gray. |
| <i>β.</i> Nine upper labials; a subocular separates the eye from the sixth labial.....                        | 6. <i>Z. karelinii</i> , Strauch.    |
| <i>γ.</i> Eight upper labials .....   | 7. <i>Z. elegantissimus</i> , Gthr.  |

<sup>1</sup> In a recent paper on Indian Snakes (Journ. As. Soc. Beng. lx. 1891, p. 233), Mr. W. L. Selater expresses doubts as to the existence of this Snake in Southern India, its resemblance to *L. travancoricus*, Bedd., rendering, in his opinion, confusion of the two by no means impossible. I therefore seize this opportunity to state that several specimens, collected by Col. Beddome in Wynaad and the Anamallays, are in the British Museum. In addition to the characters I have previously indicated, *L. striatus* differs from *L. travancoricus* in having the loreal shield in contact with the internasal, as in *L. aulicus* and *L. anamallensis*.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Soc. Nat. Mosc. 1890, p. 291.