

Some Reptiles of South India

(A Reprint)

BY

R. H. BEDDOME

(With two plates)

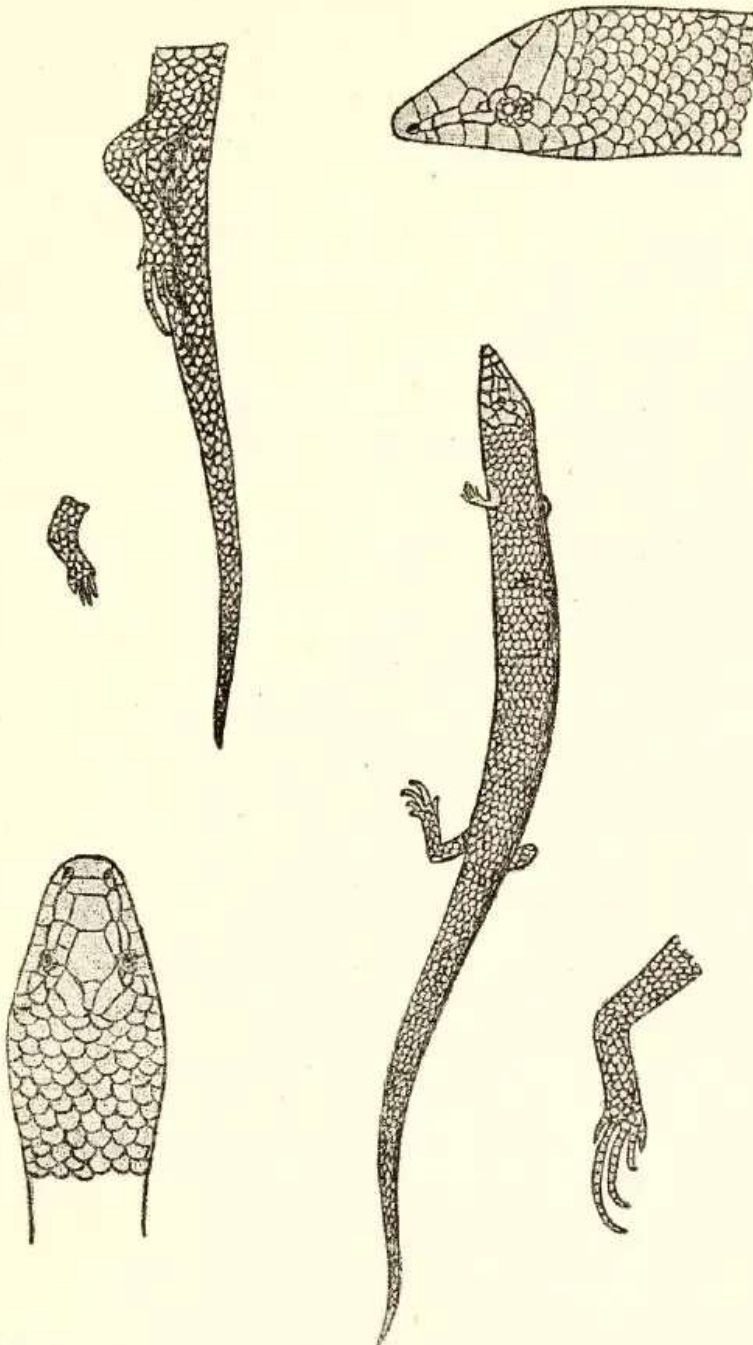
[In the *Madras Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, 1870-1, Major R. H. Beddome published a series of three papers describing 17 new species of reptiles from south India. In 1935 Dr. Bains Prashad, then Director, Zoological Survey of India, sent the Society a typed copy of the three papers with the photographic reproductions of the accompanying plates, prepared from the only traceable set of the journal which was available at the Madras Medical College, Madras. As the papers are of considerable importance, they are being reprinted for the use of research workers. The names used by M. A. Smith in the second edition of FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, Reptilia and Amphibia, volumes II (1935) and III (1943), are indicated in parentheses under each name. For the Caecilians reference is made to Boulenger's FAUNA volume on Reptilia and Amphibia (1890).—EDS.]

Descriptions of some new Lizards from the Madras Presidency, with 2 Plates. By Major R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests, Madras.

[From the *Madras Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, Vol. I, pp. 30-35, (1870), Art. II.]

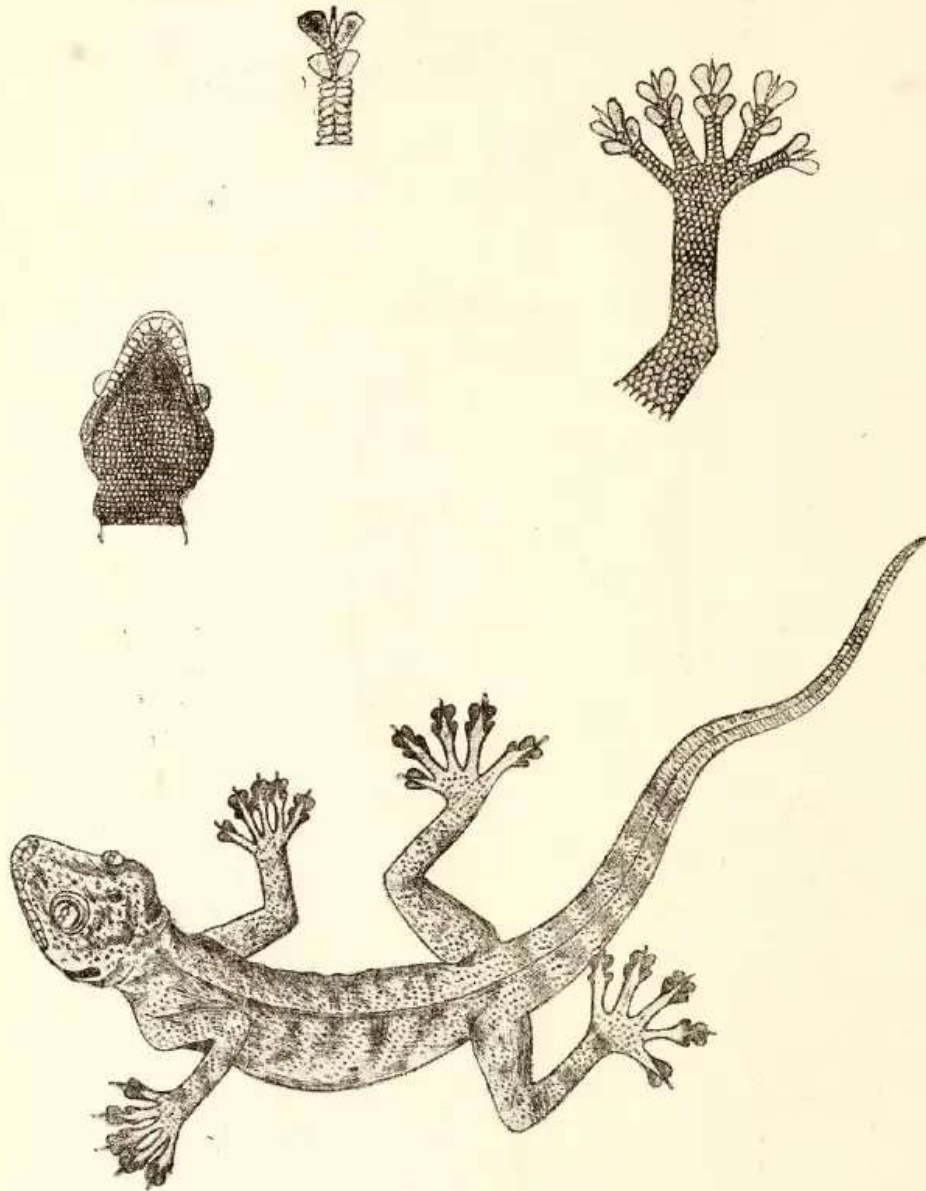
Sphenocephalus ? pentadactylus (Bedd.). [*Chalcides pentadactylus*, 2: 350].

The anterior legs minute and fitting into a groove, fingers five, the third slightly longer than the fourth, first and fifth very small; posterior legs well formed, toes five, the fourth longer than the



Sphenocephalus? pentadactylus (Bedd.).

(Reproduced from *Madras Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, Vol. 1, 1870)



Calodactylus aureus (Bedd.).

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third, the fifth very small; form slender, four and quarter inches long, as thick as a goose quill, two-thirds cylindrical, flat and laterally angled beneath as far as the vent; the body and tail covered with small smooth lustrous hexagonal scales, with a median row of broader subcaudals; upper lip covering the mouth, eyes minute, surrounded by small scales; no external trace of ears; nostrils in small single shields let into the posterior side of the rostral, with a small post-nasal behind each, and two large shields in the loreal region between the post-nasal and the eye; rostral square behind, a single prae-frontal narrow and a parallelogram in shape; post-frontal single six-sided, vertical broader behind; occipitals rounded behind, with a small shield between them, which is let into the posterior base of the vertical; five plates (some divided) over the eye, and between it and the vertical and post-frontal; upper labials 8-9, the fourth and fifth below the eye, some large shields over the posterior ones; the distance between the axils of the fore and hind limbs is a little more than one and three-quarter inch; colour of a uniform dark brown; hind limbs a little more than half an inch long; fore limbs very slender, and not quite a quarter inch long.

On the sandy banks of the Kuddle Poondy, a tidal river near Beypore. Described and figured from a unique specimen in the Madras Museum collected by Mr. Carter. It is very similar to Mr. Blyth's *Sphenocephalus tridactylus* from the Punjab, but as it has five fingers and toes instead of three, and the shields of the head differ considerably, it will probably have to be formed into a new genus. The eyes were injured, and I could not detect whether the lower eyelid was transparent or not. (See Plate I.)

Calodactylus (Bedd.). [*Calodactylodes* Strand, 1926 (1928), 2: 77].

A new genus of Geckos. Gen. Char.: Fingers and toes 5-5, dilated in their whole length, with two series of small transverse plates beneath; the thumbs and the first toes ending in a single pair of flat plates, with the claw between them; the other four fingers and toes provided with two pairs of similar plates, one pair terminal and the other pair one-third down the finger or toe, and separated from the terminal pair by several rows of the smaller scales; no cutaneous appendage.

Calodactylus aureus (Bedd.). [*Calodactylodes aureus*, 2: 78].

Head and back uniformly granular, with very small scales, some few of which are very slightly enlarged; scales of the belly small nearly square in about thirty transverse series; eye large, without eyelids, pupils elliptic erect (shaped thus ); nostrils behind each

angle of the rostral, with two plates between them; fourteen upper labials, last two very small, thirteen lower ones; opening of the ear about quarter the size of the eye, not denticulate; no femoral or preanal pores, no plates on the chin beneath except the lower labials; length $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inches, of which the tail is $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$; length of fore limbs $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, hind limbs $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; of a brilliant golden colour, freckled with brown over the whole of the upper surface (the yellow colour turns nearly white in spirits).

Amongst rocks in dark shady ravines on the Tripatty hills in North Arcot. (See Plate II.)

Gymnodactylus marmoratus (Bedd.). [*Cnemaspis beddomei* (Theobald), 1876, 2: 71].

Of stout form, body and tail coarsely granular, some of the scales enlarged but not spinous; of a dark colour, almost black, clouded with greyish white markings, or sometimes grey, clouded with black markings; belly uniform greyish; tail uniform greyish brown, or sometimes with black and grey alternate bands; pores eight, in a continuous line across the preanal region, and occupying the same breadth as the vent; outer scales in the same row, and 18-20 scales of the two anterior and some scales of the posterior rows enlarged flat and white; one enlarged white scale at the base of the tail on each side of the vent; some of the subcaudals considerably enlarged, very irregularly six-sided; rostral plate large, grooved behind, with two small plates behind the nasal organs; upper labials 6-8, the first very large the last 2-3 very small; lower labials 6-7, the median lower labial very large, produced back into a square base and entirely separating the chin shields; pupil round; length up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the tail is 1.

Under stones on the South Tinnevelly and Travancore hills, 3-5,000 ft.

Gymnodactylus gracilis (Bedd.). [*Cnemaspis gracilis*, 2: 74].

Of slender form, with rather elongated head, grey coloured, tail banded with black, body with a row of white blotches along the centre of the back, and sometimes with irregular cross bands of black markings; belly pearl coloured, with very minute black dots on the scales; limbs and toes banded with black markings; body coarsely granular, with some of the scales considerably enlarged, but scarcely spinous; regular rows of spines on the thick part of the tail; subcaudals enlarged; femoral or preanal pores none; 6-7 upper

labials, six lower ones; median lower labial large angled behind, rostral moderate; pupil round; total length up to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.


Under stones on the Palghat hills.

Gymnodactylus Wynadensis (Bedd.). [*Cnemaspis wynadensis*, 2: 69].

Head and body finely granular, many of the scales on the latter being enlarged but not spinous; tail without any spines, rounded, tapering; subcaudals large, ventral scales small, nearly round; preanal scales very small; femoral pores five, rarely only four on each thigh; upper labials 5-6, the first very large, others gradually smaller, last two minute; lower labials 6-8; rostral large grooved behind with several small scales behind it; pupil round; length $3-3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; colour blackish, with brown mottlings, sometimes a white line from the back of each eye to shoulder; grey beneath.

In the moist forests of Wynad, found under stones in the day time.

Gymnodactylus ornatus (Bedd.). [*Cnemaspis ornata*, 2: 70].

Head and body covered with fine granular scales, some of those on the latter being enlarged about four times, but not spinous; tail without any enlarged scales or spines; some of the subcaudals enlarged; belly with about 34 rows of nearly round scales; preanal pores seven in front of the preanal region; opening of the ear small, pupil round; seven upper and seven lower labials; median lower labial large, narrow and square behind, with one plate behind it and two plates between it and the first lower labials; length three inches, of which the tail is one and a half; of a brown colour, with an indistinct row of white black-edged spots down the centre of the back, a white band black-edged anteriorly, across the neck, just in front of the shoulders; a white line through the lower part of the lower labials which extends to beyond the ear, but not to the cross band on the nape; a similar white band from the cleft of the mouth to the ear; a die-shaped white mark on the centre of the head between the eyes, and a large  shaped white mark on the posterior part of the head, which has a black spot in the lower part of it, and is joined on each side by a white line which proceeds from the eye, (in a single female specimen the band across the nape and the black spot in front of it are conspicuous, but the other markings are faint or obsolete). South Tinnevely hills at no elevation, under rock, in dry jungles.

Hemidactylus aurantiacus (Bedd.). [*Hemiphyllodactylus typus aurantiacus*, 2: 108].

Head, body, and tail covered with numerous small granular scales, none of which are enlarged; tail without any spines, snout very short and obtusely rounded; nine upper labials, last three very small, 9-10 lower ones, no shields on the chin beneath, except the labials; belly covered with rows of small rounded scales, no femoral or preanal pores, pupil elliptic, erect, shaped thus ⌘ , subcaudals not enlarged, brown with black streaks on the neck and anterior portion of the body, and black blotches on the centre and posterior portion; tail orange coloured, blotched with black, belly white, with minute brown dots; length $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of which the tail is $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Shevaroys, under stones about Yercaud and elsewhere, at an elevation of 4,000 feet. I have a single specimen of apparently the same species, but somewhat larger and of thicker build, from the Anamallays, at 5,500 feet elevation.

Hemidactylus reticulatus (Bedd.). [2: 94].

Head uniformly granular, body granular with some scales enlarged and conical; tail with rows of spinous tubercles near the base; preanal pores 7 in front of the preanal region; nine upper labials, three last very small, 7-8 lower labials; opening of the ear small; 32 longitudinal series of scales across the belly; pupil very narrow, elliptic, erect; length $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the body is $1\frac{1}{2}$, and of stout form; colour reddish grey, with a large net pattern of black markings, the enlarged conical scales being reddish.

Colegal, under stones about rocky ground.

Ateuchosaurus Travancoricus (Bedd.). [*Ristella travancorica*, 2: 331].

Supranasal shields none; each scale with two heels, a large single prae-frontal in contact with the rostral and vertical, the latter shield being very narrow behind; occipitals two pair, a large diamond shaped shield between the posterior pair, and one large temporal on each side of the posterior pair; five superciliary shields, with the superciliary region generally very convex; opening of the ear very small, and not fringed; scales in 26 longitudinal series; limbs rather feeble, the third and fourth toes nearly equal in length; the fore legs do not reach the eye when laid forward; preanals and subcaudals not enlarged; length $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the body is $1\frac{5}{8}$; colour of a uniform nacreous brown above, pearl coloured beneath.

Travancore hills, Wynad, and the Anamallays up to 5,000 feet.

Mocoa Travancorica (Bedd.). [*Leiolopisma travancoricum*, 2: 304].

Supranasal shield none, the lower eyelid with a round transparent space, a single prae-frontal is in contact with the rostral as well as the vertical; four superciliary shields with a row of very small shields between them and the eye; anterior occipital single or rarely double, a diamond shaped shield between the upper part of the posterior pair of occipitals; ear without tubercles or denticulations; vent with a pair of large anals; subcaudals broad, scales in 22 longitudinal series; limbs feeble, the fore legs extend nearly to the eye, the hind leg rather more than half way to the axils of the fore; the fourth hind toe is a quarter or a little more shorter than the third; greenish olive above, and very shining; a narrow black band sometimes broken into spots down the centre of the back, disappearing on the tail, and irregular or wanting on the neck; sides blackish, belly pearl coloured; tail bluish beneath, the black band down the back is sometimes entirely absent. Travancore hills and Wynad.

Cabrita Jerdoni (Bedd.). [2: 375].

Two loreals, snout more pointed than in *C. Leschenaultii*; posterior occipitals joined into one large shield with four raised lines on it; small scales on the front margin of the ear; dorsal scales keeled about five times as large as in *Leschenaultii*; lower eyelid transparent; upper labials seven, the four first without ridge, fifth very large and under the eye, lower median labial large, seven lower labials; six pair of large chin shields behind the lower median labial; the three first meet, the fourth is the largest, and the sixth is rather small; ventral scales in six longitudinal and twenty-six transverse series; vent covered with a large central scale; femoral pores twelve on each thigh; brown with two reddish white longitudinal bands on each side as in *Leschenaultii*, but not so distinct and not edged with black, two rows of black blotches down the centre of back, between the two white bands; a lateral white band on each side from the snout to the axils of the hind legs, running below the eye and through the tympanum; throat and chin speckled with black underneath; tail reddish brown; length five inches, of which the tail is three and a half.

In *C. Leschenaultii*, there is a pair of posterior occipitals with a small shield between them in this species the posterior occipitals form one large shield with four high raised corrugated lines along it, and all the shields of the head are much more corrugated than in *Leschenaultii*, and in the latter, the four first labials are furnished with a lateral ridge, and are bent over at the sides.

Only a single specimen of this interesting lizard was procured between Colegal and Caverypooram. In its large scales it much resembles an *Ophiops*, but has a distinct lower eyelid.

An *Ophiops*, which I take to be *O. Jerdoni* (Blyth), is very abundant near the banks of the Tamboodra, north of Adoni, on red soil; and I have found the same species at Pothanore. It is very similar in colouration to the *Cabrita* here described and the scales of the back are similar in size, it however wants the lower eyelid, and differs in the shields of the head and has a much shorter tail, and only 8-9 femoral pores on each side. A casual observer, however, might take the two to be the same species. Whilst this is passing through the press I have discovered a new species of *Ophiops* on the tops of the Bramahgherries (5,000 feet elevation).

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