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PATERNOSTER-ROW.

Table lands. The reverse might certainly have been expected. But then the question arises, Are these two, *E. fulvius* and *E. corallinus*, really distinct species? The basis of the distinction seems to be laid entirely on the coloration, as no structural differences are traceable. It is true that the two, as I have given them above, represent great diversity in the number of the rings; but this inequality, being so noticeable in specimens that are certainly of the same species, seems to resolve itself into merely one of amount. The manner of arrangement is precisely the same in both, the series of rings being *equidistant* in both the species under consideration. If, then, we reject the number of rings as an insufficient ground for specific distinction, the other differences, such as the yellow bands and the intermediate black markings, can hardly be considered as such when no two specimens are exactly alike. The inequality existing in the number of the ventral plates and the proportion they bear to the caudal is such, that, if any one of the five specimens I have described be entitled to bear a specific appellation, so are they all.

Besides the great variation shown by my specimens, an examination of the series in the British Museum at once indicates that the great difference between extreme varieties can be filled in by an almost consecutive series of minor distinctions. Nor can these varieties be classed under the head of local varieties, and thus substantiate a title to specific distinction. In the present instance we find three, all of which bear separate names, inhabiting the same country. The deduction that *Elaps corallinus* and *E. fulvius*, and all the varieties which have been collected under each of these heads, belong in reality to one highly variable species, seems inevitable.

Thamnocenchris, n. g. (Crotalidæ.)

A pit on each side of the face. Posterior part of the body and tail much compressed, the latter ending in a horny spine. Subcaudals one-rowed. Tail prehensile. Head angular, anteriorly covered with irregular shields, and having small keeled scales posteriorly. No small scales between the superciliary and the orbit. The second upper labial forms the anterior part of the facial pit.

Thamnocenchris aurifer, sp. n. (Pl. XXXII. fig. 1.)

Scales keeled in nineteen rows. Nine upper labial shields. Small shields between the fourth labial and the orbit. Green, with a dorsal series of orange spots edged with black. A black band from the orbit to the side of the occiput.

Hab. Coban, Vera Paz.

This new form is distinguished from *Teleuraspis* (Cope) by its peculiarly compressed body and tail, the latter being coiled as in some of the *Boidæ*, clearly indicating a habit of living in trees. It also differs from *Botriechis**, Peters, in having very large shields instead of very small scale-like ones on the upper surface of the snout. Nor does Prof. Peters mention in his description the pecu-

* Monatsb. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1859, p. 278.

liarly compressed tail, the most striking character of the present genus. The general form of the head is similar to that of *Cenchris*, which it moreover resembles in having the anterior portion of the upper surface of the head covered with irregular shields of moderate size. Nostril in the middle of a single plate. Upper labials nine, the third, fourth, and fifth of which are the largest. There are about seven small shields between the orbit and the fourth and fifth. From the superciliary backwards the head is covered with keeled scales. Scales of the body keeled in very oblique series. 154 ventral shields; anal entire; 53 caudal shields. Posterior ventral shields extend very far up the sides. Colour green, paler and yellower below. A series of about thirty-five small golden-yellow spots runs along the back to the tail, where they become more irregular; each spot has a black edge posteriorly. The upper surface of the head is uniform dull green, bordered on each side by a black stripe proceeding from the eye to the side of the occiput. Length of the head 1 inch 4 lines; of the trunk 2 feet 3 inches; of the tail 6 inches.

A single specimen only of this new species was preserved for me at Coban by Mr. Owen while I was away in the mountains of Lanquin. It had been brought to him by an Indian.

RANA HALECINA, Kalm.

Common throughout Guatemala. It was the only species of *Rana* I met with. At Dueñas the Indians catch them to eat, spearing the larger ones and netting the larvæ.

ENGYSTOMA CAROLINENSE, Holbr.

Exceedingly common at Coban. In the day time they hide under stones and pieces of wood. About half the specimens I obtained have a fold in the skin across the occiput; the rest are without it. This character therefore cannot be considered of specific value.

BUFO AGUA, Latr.

Very abundant at Lanquin and also at Coban, but the specimens from the latter place seem to be smaller. Though numbers were brought to me, there was not a single large one among them. This species reaches its maximum development in the hottest parts of Brazil. It seems to diminish in size in more temperate regions.

BUFO NEBULIFER.

Bufo granulosus, Baird & Girard, Proc. Ac. Phil. 1852, p. 173.
Bufo nebulifer, Girard, Proc. Ac. Phil. 1854, p. 87.

Very abundant at Dueñas, where they are to be found under stones and logs of wood. After dark they come out of their hiding places and may be seen hopping about in all directions. It is a species peculiar to Central America and Mexico.

HYLA HOLOCHLORA, sp. n. (Pl. XXXII. fig. 2.)

Vomerine teeth in two slightly oblique series, beginning from the

G. H. Ford.

W. West

1. Thamnocenchris aurifer.
2. Hyla holochlora.