CATALOGUE OF SNAKES

IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

BY

G. A. BOULENGER

VOLUME III

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PREFACE.

With this volume is brought to a conclusion a series of works which all zoologists must acknowledge to be of primary importance in the history of science. The series consists of nine volumes, viz.:—The Catalogue of Batrachia Salientia, published in 1882; the Catalogue of Batrachia Gradientia, also in 1882; the Catalogue of Lizards, vol. i. 1885, vol. ii. 1885, vol. iii. 1887; the Catalogue of Chelonians, Rhynchocephalians, and Crocodiles, 1889; and the Catalogue of Snakes, vol. i. 1893, vol. ii. 1894, and vol. iii. 1896.

These works are not only catalogues in the ordinary sense of the largest general collections of Batrachia and Reptilia ever yet brought together, but are complete monographs of the groups of animals treated of, so far as their zoological characters, geographical distribution, and synonymy are concerned—descriptions being given of every species regarded by the author as valid, whether contained in the Museum or not.

The initiative of the series is due to Dr. Günther. It was begun and has been carried out almost to its close under his Keepership of the Zoological Department.

Of the unremitting devotion of Mr. Boulenger to the task which has occupied him for more than fifteen years, or of the ability and

large anatomical and literary knowledge he has brought to bear upon it, it is not necessary for me to speak—they are known to all zoologists; and I hardly need point out that the value of the work has been greatly increased by the numerous carefully executed figures of new species and of illustrative anatomical details which it contains.

W. H. FLOWER,
Director.

April 15, 1896.

INTRODUCTION.

This concluding volume of the Catalogue of Snakes, contains the descriptions of 689 species, 564 of which are represented in the Collection, and the enumeration of 5230 specimens.

The total number of recognized species of Ophidians now amounts to 1639. Duméril & Bibron's 'Erpétologie Générale' (1854) registers 531; Gray and Günther's Catalogues (1849–58) 544; and 789 (including numerous *nomina nuda*) are enumerated in Jan's 'Elenco' (1863).

The amalgamated index to the three volumes, which is appended, contains 7335 names, thus showing the enormous extent of the synonymy.

With this volume the revision of the entire Herpetological Collection in the British Museum is brought to a close, a work the publication of which has extended over fourteen years. The whole series of Catalogues, consisting of nine Volumes—two of Batrachians (1882), three of Lizards (1885–87), one of Rhynchocephalians, Chelonians, and Crocodiles (1889), and three of Snakes (1893–96)—deals with 4,413 species and 28,642 specimens. But the numerous additions to the Collection and to the Literature, made since the appearance of the earlier volumes, raise these numbers as follows :—

	Described valid species.	Species represented in Collection.	Specimens in Collection.
REPTILIA.			
SQUAMATA.			
OPHIDIA	1639	1327	11092
RHIPTOGLOSSA	76	58	544
LACERTILIA	1893	1413	13524
EMYDOSAURIA	23	20	250
CHELONIA	219	183	1852
RHYNCHOCEPHALIA ..	1	1	13
BATRACHIA.			
ECAUDATA	1146	778	8950
CAUDATA	130	89	1685
APODA	43	36	176
Total....	5170	3905	38086

The Collection in the Museum is not only the largest but also the best-arranged in existence, every specimen in it having been carefully examined and classified according to a modern system after consultation of the whole literature.

The Author begs to express his thanks to the following gentlemen who have assisted him in the preparation of the Catalogue of Snakes, through gift or loan of specimens, or with notes on the types in the Collections under their charge:—Professor Vaillant, Dr. Mocquard, and M. Bocourt, of the Paris Museum; Marquis Doria and Dr. Gestro, Genoa; Professor Hertwig, Munich; Professor Ehlers, Göttingen; Professor Barboza du Bocage, Lisbon; M. Dollo, Brussels; Professor Möbius and Dr. Tornier, Berlin; Professor Boettger, Frankfort/M.; Professor Camerano and Count Peracca, Turin; Professor Bavay, Brest; and Professor von Méhely, Kronstadt. To his former Chief, Dr. Günther, to whose initiative the publication of this work is due, his best thanks are also now offered for the kind encouragement he has bestowed on him for so many years.

G. A. BOULENGER.

Zoological Department,
March 27, 1896.

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SYSTEMATIC INDEX.

OPHIDIA.

Fam. 7. COLUBRIDÆ.

Series B. *Opisthoglypha.*

Subfam. 4. HOMALOPSINÆ.

Subfam. 5. DIPSADOMORPHINÆ.

Fam. 9. VIPERIDÆ.

Subfam. 1. VIPERINÆ.

Subfam. 2. CROTALINÆ.

CATALOGUE

OF

SNAKES.

Fam. 7. COLUBRIDÆ.

(*Continued.*)

Series B. OPISTHOGLYPHA.

Divided into three subfamilies:—

4. *Homalopsinæ.*—Nostrils valvular, on the upper surface of the snout.
5. *Dipsadomorphinæ.* — Nostrils lateral; dentition well developed.
6. *Elachistodontinæ.*—Teeth rudimentary; maxillary and mandible edentulous in front.

Most, if not all, of the Snakes in this division are poisonous to a slight degree, paralyzing their prey before deglutition.

Subfam. 4. *HOMALOPSINÆ.*

Hydrophidæ, part., *Boie, Isis*, 1827, p. 510.
Hydridæ, part., *Gray, Cat. Sn.* p. 35, 1849.
Anisodontiens, part., Platyrhiniens, *Duméril, Mém. Ac. Sc.* xxiii. p. 427, 1853; *Duméril & Bibron, Erp. Gén.* vii. p. 796, 1854.
Homalopsinæ, part., *Jan, Elenco sist. Ofid.* p. 74, 1863.
Homalopsidæ, *Günther, Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 275, 1864.
Homalopsinæ, part., *Cope, Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* xxiii. p. 484, 1886, *and Tr. Amer. Philos. Soc.* xviii. p. 209, 1895.
Homalopsinæ, *Boulenger, Faun. Ind., Rept.* p. 372, 1890.

Nostrils valvular, on the upper surface of the snout. Dentition well developed. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

Thoroughly aquatic Snakes, bringing forth their young alive in the water. Inhabitants of Southern China, the East Indies, Papuasia, and North Australia.

Synopsis of the Genera.

I. Ventrals without keels.

A. Nasals in contact.

1. Ventrals well developed.

Scales smooth; parietal shields well developed. 124. **Hypsirhina**, p. 2.

Scales keeled; parietal shields well developed; head very distinct from neck ..... 125. **Homalopsis**, p. 13.

Scales keeled; parietals more or less broken up into scales; head not very distinct from neck ..... 126. **Cerberus**, p. 15.

2. Ventrals very narrow; scales smooth. 127. **Eurostus**, p. 19.

B. Nasals separated by an internasal.

Loreal present; scales keeled..... 128. **Myron**, p. 19.

Loreal present; scales smooth; body moderately elongate. 129. **Gerardia**, p. 20.

Loreal absent; scales smooth; body stout. 130. **Fordonia**, p. 21.

Loreal present; scales smooth; body extremely elongate. 131. **Cantoria**, p. 23.

II. Ventrals bicarinate, very narrow.

Scales smooth ..... 132. **Hipistes**, p. 24.

Scales keeled; two rostral appendages. 133. **Herpeton**, p. 25.

124. HYPSIRHINA.

Hydrus, part., *Schneid. Syst. Amph.* i. p. 233 (1799).
Hypsirhina, *Wagl. Syst. Amph.* p. 169 (1830); *Gray, Zool. Misc.* p. 66 (1842), *and Cat. Sn.* p. 71 (1849); *Günth. Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 280 (1864); *Bouleng. Faun. Ind., Rept.* p. 375 (1890).
Homalopsis, part., *Schleg. Phys. Serp.* ii. p. 332 (1837).
Ferania, *Gray, ll. cc.* pp. 67, 66; *Günth. l. c.* p. 284.
Raclitia, *Gray, ll. cc.* pp. 67, 79.
Miralia, *Gray, ll. cc.* pp. 68, 79.
Phytolopsis, *Gray, Cat.* p. 67.
Hypsiscopus, *Gray, l. c.* p. 72.
Trigonurus, *Dum. & Bibr. Mém. Ac. Sc.* xxiii. 1853, p. 498, *and Erp. Gén.* vii. p. 959 (1854).
Hypsirhina, part., *Dum. & Bibr. ll. cc.* pp. 498, 945; *Jan, Arch. Zool. Anat. Phys.* iii. 1865, p. 258.
Eurostus, part., *Dum. & Bibr. ll. cc.* pp. 498, 951.
Tachyplotus, *Reinh. Vidensk. Meddel.* 1866, p. 151.
Feranoides, *Carlleyle, Journ. As. Soc. Beng.* xxxviii. 1869, p. 196.
Pythonopsis, *Peters, Mon. Berl. Ac.* 1871, p. 576.
Homalophis, *Peters, l. c.* p. 577.
Pseudoferania, *Douglas Ogilby, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W.* (2) v. 1890, p. 51.