

On some Reptiles and a Frog from the Natuna Islands

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The Natuna Islands, lying as they do between the Malay Peninsula and Borneo, are notable for the predominance of a Bornean element in their fauna.¹ The following short list, although it contains a few species new to the Natunas, only makes additions which were to be expected in the circumstances.

A few of the specimens are of special interest in that they differ in some degree from the material available to me for comparison; some of these differences may be correlated with habitat, but I doubt if the examination of a long range of specimens would prove them worthy of nominal distinction.

There is a tendency towards larger size in the island forms, a fact probably due to an exceptionally favourable biological environment; it is unlikely that this denotes racial distinction.

Variation in colour may indicate new geographical races, but no satisfactory conclusions can be drawn without long series of each species drawn from many localities.

1. Mr. L. Harrison notes as follows (Report Austr. Assn. Advancement of Science XVIII, 1928, p. 353) "On the basis of its frog fauna, Great Natuna [Bungurun Id.] is almost entirely Bornean, with an endemic genus of Pelobatids. The endemism of its land planarians is so remarkable that van Graff includes it among the eight or nine islands of the [Malay] Archipelago which he compares. But Molengraaff's reconstruction of past history would place it to the west of his great river system draining into the China Sea from Borneo and the Malay Peninsula [*i.e.* would make it Malayan *vide* The Geographical Journal, LVII, 1921, p. 103, fig. 2] so that it should belong to the latter and not to the former." C. B. K.

The specimens listed here were collected by Mr. F. N. Chasen of the Raffles Museum, in September 1928, and his field-notes on the specimens are incorporated. I am indebted to Dr. Malcolm Smith for comparing the more variable specimens with material in the British Museum. All the species concerned are recorded in de Rooij's "Reptiles of the Indo-Australian Archipelago," and I have therefore avoided the repetition of reference lists. The only previous faunal list of reptiles and Amphibia from these islands is that of Günther (Nov. Zool., II, 1895, pp. 499-502).

REPTILIA

Lacertilia

✓ *Draco cornutus* Gthr.

Bunguran Id., 2 ♂. Not previously recorded from the Natuna Islands. Originally described from Borneo; now known also from Sumatra and the Sulu Archipelago.

The gular sac of the male has hitherto been described as red. In specimens from Borneo in the collections of the British Museum examined by Dr. Smith the whole of the gular sac is yellow. The Natuna specimens have a gular sac which is tipped with bright lemon yellow, and notes on this point taken by Mr. Chasen from the fresh specimens confirm the examination of the spirit material. The original reference to a red coloration is probably an error.

Draco fimbriatus Kuhl.

Bunguran Id., 2 ♂.

The larger of these has a head and body length of 110 mm., tail 175 mm. The black spots are not confined to the underside, but are profuse on the dorsal surface. This condition also obtains in most of the specimens, from various localities, in the Raffles Museum collection and is probably the normal coloration rather than the exception.

Draco formosus Blgr.

Bunguran Id., 1 ♂. Not previously known from the Natunas.

Agrees well with a specimen in the British Museum from Kelantan except for the darker patagium. It is, however, much more strongly marked than any of the specimens in the Raffles Museum, which have generally only faint, small spots on the head and nape.

The Natuna specimen has a strong black marbling on the head and nape, the spots on the neck and body tending to form bands. The patagium is so dark as practically to obscure the usual bands, and this dark pigmentation probably accounts for the apparent

absence of the crimson edging to the membranes, which is not discernible even when the extended membrane is held against the light. The underside of the throat and wattles, usually a bright crimson, is also almost black. Melanism appears to be a common phenomenon in island forms.

✓ *Draco melanopogon* Blgr.

Bunguran Id., 1 ♀.

✓ *Aphaniotis fusca* (Peters).

Bunguran Id., 1 ♂. The head-scales are very variable, a fact which is considered by Sworder (Journal, Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, VII, 1929, pp. 327—335) to have a bearing on geographical races.

Calotes cristatellus (Kuhl).

Bunguran Id., 1 ♂.

Mabuya multifasciata (Kuhl).

Bunguran Id., 1 ♀.

Ophidia

Boiga drapiezii (Boë).

Bunguran Id. Not previously known from the Natunas.

This specimen appears to be the largest yet recorded, with a total length of 1935 mm.; tail 468 mm. Ventrals 285 (previous maximum 276); sub-caudals 150. It exhibits a melanism similar to that often found in *Boiga cynodon*. The true coloration is present, but is partially masked by a black pigmentation consisting of minute specks lending a veiled effect.

Chelonia

Dogania subplana (Geoffr.).

Bunguran Id.

AMPHIBIA

Rana glandulosa Blgr.

Bunguran Id. Not previously known from the Natunas.

The colour of this specimen in spirit is greyish marbled with black; hindlimbs with dark cross-bars speckled behind. The warts on the back are large and very flat.