

Notes on the species of Ophidia and Lacertilia obtained in Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, during April 1945

Alexander Cross

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OPHIDIA:

Cylindrophis rufus: 1 ♀.

917 30.4.45 ♀ Taken in Westrop's Nursery Garden, North Garden Area. Stomach contained an Amphipnous sp. measuring 192.0 mms. in total length.

Xenopeltis unicolor: 1 ♀.

903 9.4.45 ♀ Taken at woodyard, Central Area. Measured and liberated.

Lycodon sulicus: 2 ♀.

908 18.4.45 ♀ Taken under concrete slab, Hut 52: measured and liberated.

913 28.4.45 ♀ Taken among tapioca on hillside outside the western perimeter of the camp: stomach contained partly digested immature Mabuia multifasciata: ovary contained three eggs in early stage of development.

Holarchus purpurascens: 1 unsexed.

906 12.4.45 ? Site of capture unknown. Anterior portion of snake: no measurements possible.

Ahaetulla formosa: 1 ♂.

919 30.4.45 ♂ Taken in Westrop's Nursery Garden, North Garden Area: Gut empty. This is the species which we have previously referred to as A. picta. G. H. Sworder, who has examined this specimen states positively that it is A. formosa. In view of this all specimens of this genus, previous to this date, will have to be transferred from the one species to the other. A list of the specimens affected is given in the covering letter.

Chrysopelea chrysochlora: 1 ♂.

905 11.4.45 ♂ Taken at woodyard, Central Area, where it started to crawl up a man's leg while they were sitting having tea. Gut empty.

The top of the head is a dark, blackish, brown, with transverse orange-red bars along the sutures at the anterior and posterior edges of the parietals. The upper surface of the body is brick-red, tending to orange on the neck, and darker towards the tail. The upper surface is marked with numerous transverse bars which have the anterior and posterior portions black, while the centres are a broken greenish white. These whitish centres are most prominent on the neck and become less in extent further down the body until on the tail they are replaced by the same dark brick-red colour as on the main portion of the upper surface; the bars on the tail being, therefore, black with brick-red centres. Beneath, the ventrals are yellowish-cream on the throat, changing to a dark slate grey on the belly and tail. On the belly, this grey coloration is restricted to the central portion of the ventrals, between the hinges; the segments of the ventrals beyond the hinges, next to the costals, being cream coloured, while the line of the hinge, and the posterior edge of the cream-coloured side-

wings of the ventrals are black. G. H. Sworder has identified the specimen as of this species.

- Naja naja: 1 ♂, 2 ♀.
909 22.4.45 ♀ Taken at Carpenter's Shop, Central Area.
Gut empty.
914 28.4.45 ♂ Killed during the morning by heavy changkolling gang among tapioca on hillside outside the western perimeter of the camp. (vide No. 915). Gut empty.
915 28.4.45 ♀ Killed during the afternoon by the outside heavy changkolling gang within a few feet of the place where they had killed the male (No. 914) in the morning. Gut empty.

LACERTILIA:

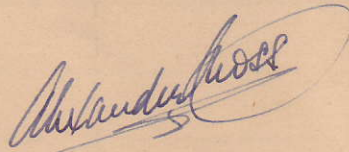
Gecko monarchus: 1 immature.

- 904 9.4.45 imm. Two eggs, measuring 11 x 9 and 11 x 9.5 mms., and fused together, had been found on a bookshelf in Hut 118 about the middle of March. They were placed in a small tin and covered with a piece of glass. On 9.4.45 these eggs hatched. The two young geckos were observed alive. Down the back they had the paired black spots which are typical of this species. One of them escaped and the other was badly damaged in capture, so that no measurements were possible.

Gehyra mutilata: 1 ♀.

- 910 24.4.45 ♀ Taken in Hut 118. This specimen went 'busok' and no measurements were taken.

Sime Road Internment Camp,
Singapore.
12th. May 1945.



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