

Belated reports on the species of Ophidia and Lacertilia obtained in Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, for March and April 1945

Alexander Cross

To whom Despatched. Hut 118: 20th. May 1945.

Herewith the belated reports for March and April on the Specimens of Ophidia and Lacertilia taken during these months. The measurements are:

Cylindrophis rufus:

917 30.4.45 ♀ 463.0 - 10.0 - 473.0 = 19 - 211 ♂ D - 6s.

Xenopeltis unicolor:

903 9.4.45 ♀ 384.0 - 52.0 - 436.0 = 15 - 186 - D - (1s+31p.)

Lycodon aulicus:

860 6.3.45 ♀ 346.0 - 81.0 - 427.0 = 17 - 187 - D - 66p.

864 12.3.45 ♂ 384.0 - 89.0 - 473.0 = 17-187 - D - 70p.

866 14.3.45 ♂ 312.0 - 70.0 - 382.0 = 17 - 189 - D - 66p.

902 31.3.45 ♀ 413.0 - 104.0 - 517.0 = 17 - 191 - D - 68p.

908 18.4.45 ♀ 344.0 - 81.0 - ? 415.0 = 17 - 190 - D - 67p.

(This is the specimen I mentioned to you in which your measurements do not tally.)

913 28.4.45 ♀ 410 - 72+ - 482+ = 17 - 199 - D - 56+p.

Lycodon sp.:

867 14.3.45 ♀ 375.0 - 61.0 - 436.0 = 17 - 217 - D - 52+p.

Ahaetulla formosa:

919 30.4.45 ♂ 523.0 - 248.0 - 771.0 = 13 - 173 - D - 122p.

Chrysopplea peleas:

901 30.3.45 ♀ 780.0 - ~~262xxxxxxx~~ 262.0 - 1042.0 =
17 - 222 - D - 119p.

Chrysopplea chrysochlora:

905 11.4.45 ♂ 333.0 - 148.0 - 481.0 = 17 - 188 - D - 114p.

Maticora intestinalis:

865 12.3.45 ♀ 390.0 - 14.0 - 404.0 = 13 - 284 - S - 14p.

Naja naja:

909 22.4.45 ♀ 537.0 - 83.0 - 620.0 = 19 - 186 - S - 49p.

914 28.4.45 ♂ 1055.0 - 203.0 - 1258.0 = 19 - 184 - S - 55p.

915 28.4.45 ♀ 928.0 - 160.0 - 1088.0 = 19 - 184 - S - 49p.

Draco volans:

861 6.3.45 ♂ 32.4 - 48.2 - 80.6 - 6.0 - 18.0 - 12.9 - 2.9 -
16.1 - 6.0 - 25.8

Mabuia multifasciata:

858 1.3.45 ♂ 102.4 - 138.8 - 241.2 - 21.1 - 63.0 - 31.1 -
9.6 - 45.0 - 17.8

As I mentioned to you during our conversation at the rice store a few days ago G.H. Swarder has definitely identified the Ahaetulla which we are getting in this camp as A. formosa. This means a change in nomenclature in these reports. This means that in all reports, letters etc, up to the end of February 1945, wherever Ahaetulla picta occurs, read Ahaetulla formosa, and vice versa. The specimens affected are - for A. formosa read A. picta in specimen No. 75. for A. picta read A. formosa in Specimens No. 92, 342, 416, 429, 462, 489, 509. Swarder has also identified two snakes taken this month (May) as being Holarchus purpurascens, which means that the two specimens (Nos. 585 and 906) given under this name must now be read as being Holarchus signatus, which is however only a provisional identification. This affects the April report which requires correction.

The other point I mentioned during our conversation was that all the specimens have gone 'busok', and that I am now taking skin sections whenever possible. I have sections of Cylindrophis rufus, Xenopeltis unicolor, Elaphe radiata, Lycodon aulicus, Holarchus purpurascens, Ahaetulla formosa, and Naja naja. If you get specimens of any other species, either alive or dead, in good condition, please let me have them right away so that I can take skin sections for use in later identifications.

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Alexander Swarder