

Notes on the species of Ophidia and Lacertilia obtained at Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, during July 1944

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by Alexander Cross.

OPHIDIA.

Family XENOPELTIDAE.

Xenopeltis unicolor.

This snake is brown above and pure white below. The lateral costals being brown ringed with white. The brown varies greatly from a light sandy to a very dark brown. In life the scales are beautifully iridescent.

Four specimens were obtained at Changi (1♂, 3♀), and a single ♂ specimen was obtained in Sime Road Camp during July. From the limited number of specimens obtained it would appear that the males are considerably larger than females. The two ♂ specimens measured, H. & B., 641.9 - 642.5 - 643.2 mm.; Tail, 79.3 - 84.2 - 89.0 mm.; Total, 722.5 - 726.7 - 730.9 mm.; while the three ♀ specimens averaged, H. & B., 453.0 - 507.1 - 535.2 mm.; Tail, 58.0 - 67.7 - 73.1 mm.; Total, 511.0 - 574.7 - 608.3 mm.. The Scale Count was, Costals 15; Ventrals, ♂ 175 - 183, ♀ 171 - 173; Anal, divided; Subcaudals, 1 single - 29/30 pairs.

Family ELAPHIDAE: Subfamily ELAPHINAE.

Holarchus octolineatus.

Malay: 'ular tedong usat' (Wilkinson).

This is a very beautiful snake. The head is olive brown with two black arrow-shaped marks which are typical of the genus. Down the centre of the back is a terra cotta stripe, which is broadly edged with black. The sides are olive brown with two black stripes, and the belly is a deep pink, fading to whitish on the undersurface of the tail.

Two specimens (1♂, 1♀) were obtained in the Camp during July. They measured; H. & B., 429.0 & 363.4 mm.; Tail, 114.6 & 99.5 mm.; Total, 543.6 & 462.9 mm.; while the Scale Counts were; Costals 17; Ventrals, 170 & 163; Anal, single; Subcaudals, 59 & 61 pairs respectively.

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus.

A large ♀ specimen of this brilliantly coloured tree snake was obtained in the Camp in July. The upper surface of the head and neck are a uniform bronze, while the supralabials and sides of the neck are more yellowish. The upper surface of the body and tail are bronze, with the scales edged with black. This black edging is broader on the lateral edges of the scales and forms four black lines down the length of the body. On the lateral aspect of the body the bronze is edged with a black line which is followed by a broad cream coloured line, and then by a broader black line. On the latter part of the body and on the tail the marking is similar but the stripes are narrower and the cream-colour deepens to an orange. On the ventral aspect this snake is whitish on the chin, shading to pale greenish-blue on the body, and to a deep yellow on the latter part of the body and on the tail. A black line, from which the snake gets its specific name, divides the two rows of subcaudals.

This specimen measured; H. & B., 1003.0 mm.; Tail, 343.5 mm.; Total, 1346.5 mm. The Scale Count was; Costals, 13; Ventrals, 185;

