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

Alexander Cross

**Note**: The third page is a blank medical sheet.

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

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 irridescent.

Four specimens were obtained at Changi (18, 30), and a single of 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 of 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 of 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, 6 175 - 183, p 171 - 173; Anal, divided; Subcaudals, 1 single - 29/30 pairs. 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 clive 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 (10, 10) 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 of 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 bronze is edged with a black line which is followed by a broad cream coloured lined, 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;

Anal, divided: Subcaudals, 107 pairs.
A of specimen with part of the tail missing was taken at Changi. It had an H.& B. measurement of 934.0 mm., a Costal count of 13, and a Ventral count of 185. This specimen, which was obtained on 22.2.42, contained six eggsmeasuring 45 - 50 mm. x 14 mm..

In this species the tongue is a brilliant orange with dark

brown tips.

Family ELAPHIDAE: Subfamily HOMALOPSINAE.

# Chrysopelea peleas.

Malay: 'ular mengenyior' (Wilkinson).

A of specimen of the Malay Flying Snake was obtained from the Dunearn Road site during the month. The general colour of the back is black with a green spot in the centre of each scale. On the sides the green spots increase in size, and the ventrals are green narrowly edged with black. Normally this species has a row of fouror five-petalled rosettes, pink to red in colour, down the centre

line of the back, but they are missing from this specimen.

The measurements were; H.& B., 725.5 mm.; Tail, 242.2 mm.;
Total, 967.7 mm.; while the Scale Count was, Costals, 17; Ventrals, 228; Anal divided; Subcaudals, 127 pairs.

#### ADDENDUM.

The following Species recorded in the previous report have again been taken during July.

# OPHIDIA.

Lycodon aulicus. 10. This specimen contained a partly digested skink (Lygosoma bowringii), also 4 partly formed eggs.

Ahaetulla picta. 10. H.& B.; 644.6 mm.; Tail, 310.0 mm.; Total, 954.6 mm.: Costals 15; Ventrals, 175; Anal divided; Subcaudals, 132 pairs.

# LACERTILIA.

Hemidactylus frenatus. 36, 20, 2 immature.

Calotes cristatellus. 16. Stomach contained the remains of a large Buprestid beetle.

Mabuia multifasciata. 10, 20, 1 immature. Stomache contents examined by Capt. H. M. Pendlebury contained a grasshopper WEMMINIA (Genus Atractomorpha), a field cricket (Genus Gryllus), a beetle (FamilyMelolonthidae, Genus Serica), and a spider (not identified). One of the openimens contained 4 foetal young.

ygosoma bowringii. † unsexed.

Two eggs Pound 4:9:44, nur) are soil, base of grass: soft whelled, 7x12 mms: hatched the same evening 

Sime Road Camp, Singapore. 5th. August 1944.

Alfander ( and et )

# Medical Sheet.

Admitted	General & Grade No  Date due release				
Name					
Nationality	Crime				
Age					
Height	Sentence				
Weight					

Date We			Fit for					
	Weight	Reason for interviewing M.O.	lbs Husk	Corporal Punishment	Solitary Confinement	Diet	M. O.'s Remarks	
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