

## **Notes on the species of *Ophidia* and *Lacertlia* obtained at Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, during October 1944**

Alexander Cross

OPHIDIA.

Typhlops braminus. 2 ♀.

- 499 12.10.44 ♀ Found in stomach of Xenopeltis unicolor (No. 496)  
506 15.10.44 ♀ Entered Hut 40 during heavy rain.

Dr. Gibson-Hill described No. 506 as "Colour, dark, slightly purplish, grey, almost black on dorsal surface; light mauve-grey on ventral surface, the colour varying slightly with that of the contained organs; and all the scales, dorsal and ventral, dark, straight grey at their anterior angles; caudal spine colourless.

Xenopeltis unicolor. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

- 490 6.10.44 ♂ Dr. Gibson-Hill writes "Taken on the road near entrance Women's Camp, by sentry, 5.0 a.m.. Stomach contained a large mass of lizard scales, several partly digested fore-digits and two partly digested hind-feet, longest digit just over 7 mms. all amber brown in colour; they appeared to represent the remains of a skink (? a young Mabuia multifasciata) The hind gut was full of faeces. The skin of this snake was a lovely mid-chocolate brown, the palest that I have seen, and richly iridescent." Specimens of a pale sandy colour are known.

- 498 12.10.44 ♀ This snake had in its stomach a skink (Lygosoma bowringii) and a burrowing snake (Typhlops braminus). Dr. Gibson-Hill writes: "The lizard, which had been swallowed head first, was lying in the anterior two middle portions of the stomach; the snake, which had been nipped about halfway along the left side and was half severed at this point, was partly stretched out alongside the lizard, and partly coiled in a bolus posterior to it. The snake would thus appear to have been swallowed first, or, as is more likely from its fresher condition, to have worked past the lizard by peristalsis, or its own final movements. Hind gut almost entirely empty but with a little faecal material at the posterior end."

Lygodon sulcius. 2 ♂, 8 ♀.

- 488 2.10.44 ♀ Taken inside Hut 130a: stomach empty.  
492 7.10.44 ♀ Stomach empty.  
495 8.10.44 ♀ Taken near Hut 40: measured and liberated.  
497 9.10.44 ♀ Taken at Hut 40. Dr. Gibson-Hill writes: "When first observed this snake had caught a skink (Mabuia multifasciata) by the left hind limb and was holding it firmly; the skink turned and seized the snake immediately behind the head. In the ensuing struggle the snake lost its hold on the leg and the skink then escaped. On dissection, two clusters of partly formed eggs, the right (upper) containing five, the left (lower) three, all 13 x 3 mms.: each cluster also contained 10 - 12 follicles, varying from 1 x 0.5 to 4 x 2 mms.. Stomach contained a large mass of lizard scales and partially digested fragments of the posterior end of a skink, Mabuia multifasciata; these included 71 mms of tail, one hind foot, and a hind foot and leg, 38 mms long; the longest digit on each of the feet was 14 mms. The hind gut was full of faeces."  
503 14.10.44 ♀ Fragments of a specimen caught in South Lower Kitchen. Gut contained a gecko, Hemidactylus frenatus, freshly swallowed and apparently unaffected externally by digestion. It was intact except for a large gash in the right flank.  
507 16.10.44 ♂ Dr. Gibson-Hill writes: "Found under a pile of wood and junk metal behind rice store. It was killed by crush-

Pl. c. 850 mms.  
Tail c. 93 mms.

:ing the head, but reflex movements of body were still occurring 90 minutes later. Stomach contained 40 mms of terminal portion of tail of a lizard, ? L. bowringii, and a portion of a limb. Hind gut almost completely empty."

- 511 20.10.44 ♀ Taken asleep in crevice in the floor of Hut 40a. Belly full, very sluggish; measured and liberated.
- 512 21.10.44 ♀ Taken on Pig Farm Hillside. Gut empty.
- 514 23.10.44 ♀ Taken on Pig Farm Hillside: measured and liberated
- 523 31.10.44 ♂ Taken on Pig Farm Hillside: measured and liberated

Ahaetulla picta. 1 ♀, 1 immature.

- 489 3.10.44 ♀ Posterior 2/3 of snake killed on the ground, lower garden, near Hut 40a: contained 6 well-formed, fresh eggs, 29 - 33 mms long x 9.5 - 10 mms: hind gut empty.
- 509 19.10.44 immature. Taken on bush at Hut 101. Measured and liberated.

Masticora intestinalis. 1 ♀.

- 505 15.10.44 ♂ Taken in "orchard" during "relatives' meeting". Gut empty.

Naja naja. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

- 515 23.10.44 ♀ "Taken about 11.30 a.m. crossing an open bed, South area garden. Contained 5 eggs, varying from 75 x 16 to 58 x 19 mms., all in the oviduct, and well down towards the posterior end of the body. Gut, stomach and intestine, completely empty. This snake attempted to escape when attacked, and it was not until the second blow was aimed at her that she turned, extended her hood, and spat, the ejection carrying about ten feet, and narrowly missing the head of the man attacking her. Then she turned away again, but the second blow caught her on the back, about 1/3 along, breaking the cervical column." (Dr. C. A. Gibson-Hill.)
- 520 30.10.44 ♂ Taken by the Dunsarn Road fatigue just outside the camp boundary, about 150 yards from the locality of the ♀ (No 481) taken on 25.9.44. Stomach and gut, empty. 14 parasitic worms varying in length from 10 - 55 mms. were attached to the fatty lesions of the intestine.

LACERTILIA.

Hemidactylus frenatus. 1 ♂.

- 504 14.10.44 ♂ Found in stomach of Lycodon aulicus (No. 503).

Draco volans.

No specimens taken during October. The stomach contents of the specimens taken during August were examined by Capt. H. M. Pendlebury, and found to consist entirely of the head-capsules of ants (Formicidae).

Lygosoma bowringii. 1 ♂.

- 500 12.10.44 ♂ Found in stomach of Xenopeltis unicolor, 498 (q.v.)

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Sime Road Internment Camp,  
SINGAPORE.  
9th. November 1944.

*Alexander Sime*