

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

Alexander Cross

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

OPHIDIA.

Xenopeltis unicolor. 1 ♀. + 1 ♀, 23.11.44.

536 11.11.44 ♀ Taken near Hut 118 while clearing grass for new  
roadway. Stomach empty.

Lycodon aulicus. 3 ♀.

529 9.11.44 ♀ Taken in North Area garden. Stomach contained ~~the~~  
the partly digested remains of a young Mabuia multifasciata  
of which the H. & B. measured 60 mms..

549 15.11.44 ♀ Gut empty.

564 21.11.44 ♀ Taken on Hospital Hill, Women's Camp.  
Gut empty.

Elaphe melanura. 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Three specimens of a snake, which has been provision-  
ally identified as Elaphe melanura, were taken during the  
month. The general colour above is a deep slate-black; be-  
neath it is a dirty greyish-white. On either side of the  
neck there is an attempt at a white collar which runs up  
from the ventrals but does not quite meet on the back of  
~~the~~ the neck. This 'collar' is variable in extent and is not  
always symmetrical. The dorsal costals are slightly keeled.

563 21.11.44 ♂ Entered Hut 125 about 9.30 p.m..

569 27.11.44 ♀ Taken in drain at Hut 118 about 10 p.m.. Stomach  
empty. Oviduct contained seven eggs measuring from 22 x 8  
to 21 x 9 mms..

572 28.11.44 ♂ Taken in drain at Hut 118 about 10 p.m..  
Stomach empty.

Naja naja. 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

565 22.11.44 ♀ Taken at the Pig Farm. Gut empty.

566 25.11.44 ♀ Brought in by E.O. Shebbeare. Locality of capture  
not ascertained.

571 28.11.44 ♂ Taken on Hospital Hillside. The stomach contained  
the unidentifiable remains of a frog or toad, all that was  
left being the backbone and a few pieces of flesh.

LACERTILIA.

No lizards were taken during November.

Sime Road Internment Camp,  
SINGAPORE.  
5th. December 1944.

*Handwritten signature*



Hut 118: 5th December 1944.

Dear Carl,

Herewith the November report. I am afraid the typing is a bit shaky at places. I am using a different type-writer this time and this machine has a funny habit of jumping a space occasionally (it seems to have stopped at the moment) which is rather annoying. Herewith the measurements:

529	9.11.44	<u>L.aulicus</u>	♀	411.5/98.5/510/17/189/D/67p.
549	15.11.44	- do -	♀	521/112/633/17/197/D/66p.
563	21.11.44	<u>E.melanura</u>	♂	719/171/890/17/219/D/84p.
566	25.11.44	<u>N.naja</u>	♀	334/55/389/19/186/S/51p.
569	27.11.44	<u>E. mela nura</u>	♀	732/167.5/899.5/17/218/D/77p.
571	28.11.44	<u>N.naja</u>	♂	1113/196/1309/19/182/S/1s+50p.
572	do	<u>E. melanura</u>	♂	603/136/739/17/224/D/82p.

I think you have all the others. I have nothing else to report at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

*Alexander Sauer*

Dr. C. A. Gibson-Hill,  
Hut 40.



Hut 118; 17th. Dec. 1944.

Psammodynastes pictus. 576 1.12.44 ♂ 299/194/493//  
17/148/D/109p. Taken just outside Hut 125.

Macrophistodon rhodomelas: 581 13.12.44 immature ♀  
136/31.5/167.5//19/132/D/52p. Taken in North Area  
Garden. This is a new species for the Camp. It is  
a beautiful orange brown with a black V on the neck  
and a black stripe down the whole length of the back,  
but I will let you have the full detailed description  
when I give you the December report. This is a very  
young specimen.

Naja naja: 582 16.12.44 ♀ 1059/181/1240//19/184/S/  
49p. Flushed from wood pile on new road and killed  
at well near Hut 119.

Gehyra mutilata: 577 3.12.44 ♀ 51.4/52.0/103.4/12.2/  
31.0/14.0/3.2/19.9/4.9 Taken in Central Area Office.  
In the schedule of species which I gave you some time  
ago you will note that I put down that we had taken  
an immature G.mutilata at Changi (26 10.1.43). That  
immature specimen is at Changi, but I have drawings  
of the head and tail and have found that the specimen  
taken here (577) is not of the same species. Swarder  
and I have examined Spec. 577 and the drawings of Spec.  
26 and have come to the following provisional conclu-  
sion: No. 26 is an immature Gecko monarchus, and No.  
577 is Gehyra mutilata. This is subject to check  
against Museum specimens at a later date.

Is there any hope of getting a few sheets of  
foolscap flimsies, i.e. the very thin paper used for  
copies, the usual stuff in this camp being pink in  
colour. Can you get me any? It is for an end of the  
year report on Butterflies.

Dr. C. A. Gibson-Hill,  
Hut 40.

*W. Swarder*



Dec. 1942 (Cont'd.)

118	119	1110
1111	1112	1113
1114	1115	1116
1117	1118	1119

DR. C. A. GIBSON - HILL,  
HUT 40.

2-33-100-100

(45 B)

# Lower Grade Prisoners

Received from \_\_\_\_\_

Chinese, \_\_\_\_\_

Malays, \_\_\_\_\_

Indians, \_\_\_\_\_

Europeans, \_\_\_\_\_

Total, \_\_\_\_\_

For Reception ward.

GAOLER.

Date, \_\_\_\_\_ 19

JK 1

1943