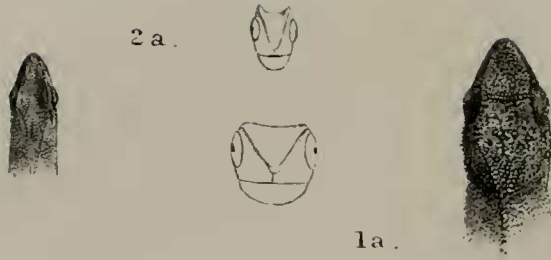




1.



2.

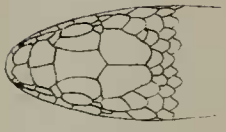


P Smit del et lith.

Mintern Bros . imp.

1. RHAMPHOLEON PLATYCEPS .

2: RHAMPHOLEON BRACHYURUS .



Peter. Smit. del. et. lith. e

PSAMMOPHYLAX VARIABILIS

Mutlerr. Bros. Chromo. lit.

3. Report on a Collection of Reptiles and Batrachians transmitted by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., from Nyassaland. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

[Received November 1, 1892.]

(Plates XXXIII.-XXXV.)

Acting under instructions from Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., F.Z.S., Mr. Sclater has sent to the British Museum a series of specimens of Reptiles and Batrachians collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S., the naturalist attached to Mr. Johnston's staff, in the Shiré Highlands south of Lake Nyassa, principally upon Mount Zomba and Mount Milanji.

Mr. Johnston has directed that the first set of these specimens, after they are determined, shall be deposited in the National Collection.

The present consignment consists of 90 specimens. These are referable to 12 species of LIZARDS, viz.: *Mabouia varia*, Ptrs.; *Mabouia quinqueteniata* (Licht.); *Sepsina tetradactyla* (Ptrs.); *Agama atricollis* (Smith); *Agama mossambica* (Ptrs.); *Agama kirkii* (Blgr.); *Lygodactylus capensis* (Smith); *Lygodactylus angularis* (sp. n.); *Chamæleon dilepis* (var. *Ch. parvilobus*, Blgr.); *Chamæleon isabellinus* (sp. n.); *Rhampholeon platyceps* (sp. n.); *Rhampholeon brachyurus* (sp. n.).

Ten species of SNAKES are represented, viz.: *Typhlops obtusus* (Ptrs.); *Uriechis capensis* (Smith), probably = *U. nigriceps* (Ptrs.); *Psammophylax variabilis* (sp. n.); *Homalosoma lutrix* (L.); *Ahæntulla irregularis* (Leach); *Leptodira rufescens* (Gm.); *Lycophidium horstockii* (Schleg.); *Boodon lineatus* (D. B.); *Causus rostratus* (Gthr.); *Clotho arietans* (Merr.).

Five species of BATRACHIANS are represented, viz.: *Rana fasciata* (Tschudi); *Rana nyassæ* (sp. n.); *Bufo regularis* (Reuss); *Breviceps mossambicus* (Ptrs.); *Scolecophorus kirkii* (Blgr.).

The majority of these Reptiles and Batrachians, although previously known from other parts of Central and Eastern Africa, are new to our knowledge of the Reptilian Fauna of the Nyassa district. This knowledge is extremely scanty¹, and embraces, even with the aid of the present consignment, only a small fraction of the actual number of species that must inhabit a district apparently so favourable to the development of Reptilian life. As we may shortly expect further consignments, it would be premature to attempt a comparison of this fauna with those of other parts of Tropical Africa, and I proceed at once to the description of the new forms.

LYGODACTYLUS ANGULARIS. (Plate XXXIII. fig. 1.)

Head, body, and particularly the tail depressed; snout obtusely

¹ As will appear from a perusal of three papers, two by the author in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, p. 303, and in Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 6. i. p. 322 (1858), and one by Mr. Boulenger in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1891, p. 305.

narrowed in front, nearly twice as long as the eye, and longer than the distance between the eye and the small ear-opening. Rostral broad; nostril opposite to the suture between the rostral and first labial; upper labials seven or eight; mental broad, but not extending backwards to the posterior margins of the first pair of lower labials, which are separated from each other by a pair of small scutes. Digits and toes very unequal, free; the first digit and toe very short, but provided with a claw. Seven præanal pores disposed in a chevron-shaped line. Tail with a median series of enlarged scutes below. Brown, above marbled with darker; sides of the thorax with alternate yellow and black spots; white below, throat with three or four concentric V-shaped blue lines, the angles being directed backwards.

Length of body and head 38 millim.
 „ head 9 „

Tail mutilated.

One specimen.

CHAMÆLEON ISABELLINUS. (Plate XXXIII. fig. 2.)

This species belongs to the *dilepis*-group of the genus, being distinguished by the large scutes of the occipital flaps and of the occiput.

Casque slightly raised posteriorly; parietal crest low, but distinct; distance between the commissure of the mouth and the extremity of the casque considerably longer than the length of the mouth; lateral crest very distinct. Interorbital space rather concave. Occipital lobes large, elongate, covered with flat scutes in three longitudinal series; also the scutes on the crown are flat, not tubercular. Granules of the body homogeneous; a dorsal and gular-ventral crest. Tail at least as long as the body. Of an isabelline colour, with a white straight band from the axil towards the groin, and with a similar shorter, interrupted band above it.

Total length $6\frac{1}{4}$ in.
 Length of tail $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.
 Distance of end of snout from end of
 parietal crest 1 in.
 Width of interorbital space $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

RHAMPHOLEON PLATYCEPS. (Plate XXXIV. fig. 1.)

Beside the additional cusp on each claw, neither the fingers nor the toes are provided with a spine. Body finely granular, with scattered slightly enlarged tubercles. The upper side of the head and the interorbital space are flat, granular, with a transverse series of somewhat larger granules crossing the interorbital space, and another crossing the temple; another starts from each side of the crown, and converging and meeting its fellow behind the occiput at a very acute angle is lost on the back; pairs of very small tubercles are placed at regular distances along the vertebral line. Tail (lost by accident) was probably as long as or perhaps shorter than that of

Rh. kerstenii. Colour uniform greyish; anterior half of the head black.

One adult female specimen 2 inches long, without tail.

RHAMPHOLEON BRACHYURUS. (Plate XXXIV. fig. 2.)

Beside the additional cusp on each claw, neither the fingers nor the toes are provided with a spine. Body finely granular, with scattered, slightly enlarged tubercles. The *interorbital space* is rather deeply concave, without transverse series of tubercles; crown of the head compressed, with a raised line on each side, the two lines converging, and meeting at a very acute angle in the vertebral line, where they are lost. A raised line or fold of the skin crosses the temple and is continued along the middle of the side of the body to the root of the tail. Tail very short, not prehensile, shorter than the lower leg with the toes. Light yellowish, with a straight brownish band running along the middle of the side below the raised line; two other, narrower and less dark bands run parallel to the former, above and below it. Upper edge of the tail sharp and of a yellow colour.

Total length 40 millim.

Tail 6 „

Two female specimens, both young, the smaller only 28 millim. long.

PSAMMOPHYLAX VARIABILIS. (Plate XXXV.)

In general habit similar to *Psammophylax rhombeatus*, but with the coloration of a *Psammophis*.

Vertical shield rather elongate, with slightly concave lateral margins, longer than the two frontals together and as long as the occipital. Rostral reaching to the upper surface of the head; loreal square; antecular single, large, extending to the upper surface of the head, but not, or but barely, reaching the vertical. Two postoculars. Two pairs of chin-shields, the anterior in contact with five lower labials. Eight upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Temporals small, generally one in front and in contact with both postoculars, the succeeding temporals rather irregularly disposed. Scales in 17 rows. Ventrals 157 or 169; anal bifid; subcaudals 57 or 55.

Ground-colour an olive-brown; body with straight bands produced by a somewhat different shade of the ground-colour, and bordered by narrow black or white lines: one of these bands starts from the occiput and occupies the middle of the back, another from behind the eye and runs along the side of the body. The vertebral series of scales is black, each with a yellow central line; the fifth outer series of scales is likewise black, but the yellow line occupies the upper margin of each scale. A greenish-white line runs along the meeting edges of the two outermost series of scales. Upper part of the head uniform brown; upper labials greenish white; lower parts greenish.

This is the coloration of two specimens; a third is uniform greenish olive. This specimen has also two small temporals in front and in contact with the postoculars. Ventrals 163; subcaudals 60.

Another variety, also represented by a single specimen, is uniform black above, lower parts dull greenish. Ventrals 162; subcaudals ca. 44 (tail slightly mutilated).

Total length $24\frac{1}{2}$ in., of which the tail takes 5 and the head $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

RANA NYASSÆ.

Vomerine teeth in two nearly straight, or slightly oblique series between the hinder part of the small choanæ. Snout moderate, rather pointed; tympanum two thirds of the area of the eye. Fingers slender, the two inner ones subequal; toes very slender, the fourth rather shorter than the distance between the vent and tympanum, two-thirds webbed. Subarticular tubercles almost absent; inner metatarsal tubercle small, short, no outer one. If the hind limb be carried forward along the body, the tibio-tarsal articulation reaches far beyond the snout. Skin of the back with numerous short, irregular, undulated folds, passing into small tubercles behind; abdomens smooth. Upper parts uniform blackish brown; abdomen whitish, largely marbled with dark brown; throat nearly entirely dark brown.

Length of body	27 lines.
„ hind limb	53 „
„ fourth toe	17 „

One specimen.

4. On Zeuglodont and other Cetacean Remains from the Tertiary of the Caucasus. By R. LYDEKKER, B.A., F.Z.S.

[Received September 3, 1892.]

(Plates XXXVI.-XXXVIII.)

The specimens forming the subject of the present communication were brought from Russia by my friend Mr. A. Smith Woodward, to whom they had been lent by Prof. H. Sjögren, of Upsala, for the purpose of examination and description. They were obtained from a Tertiary deposit, in company with a number of fish-remains, in the Caucasus.

The bones are in a fine state of preservation, and before cleaning were coated with a clayey matrix, among which were numerous plates of selenite; the nature of the matrix thus suggesting a deposit very similar in character to our own London Clay. The specimens comprise several fragments of jaws, numerous more or less imperfect vertebræ, and a single humerus; all evidently belonging to Cetaceans (assuming that the Zeuglodonts are rightly included in that group). The vertebræ and jaws indicate that we have to do with