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A CHECKLIST OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND NEW GUINEAN REPTI

PART I:

SERPENTES

Djoko T. Iskandar
Ed Colijn

JICA
Biodiversity Conservation Project

The Gibbon Foundation

A Checklist of Southeast Asian and New Guinean Reptiles
Part I. Serpentes

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INTRODUCTION

With a total number of about 2000 species of amphibians and reptiles, the Southeast Asian and New Guinean region is one of the richest herpetological regions in the world. Although covering only 5 % of the earth`s surface area, the region is home to 15 % of the world`s herpeto-diversity. This percentage is likely to grow as herpetology here is still in its childhood and a lot of new species undoubtedly will be discovered in the near future. Indonesia, especially, seems to be terra incognito. Indonesia contributed for about 70 % to the region`s herpeto-diversity until the 19th century while currently this is only 55 %. A recent survey in the Wapoga River Area, Papua, Indonesia (Mack *et al.*, 2000), for instance, revealed that more than 50 % of the amphibians in the area were new to science.

The principal goal of this project is to bring together the scattered information about the region`s herpetofauna and to offer local herpetologists a "state-of-the art" framework from which to proceed in future research. Global checklists have recently been published for various herpetological groups (e.g. David & Ineich, 1999; Duelmann, 1993; Frost, 1985; Golay *et al.* 1993, Iverson, 1992; King & Burke, 1989; Kluge, 1991; McDiarmid *et al.*, 1999). However, most of these publications are hardly available to local herpetologists, none deals with two of the largest groups, Colubridae and Scincidae, and no single comprehensive herpetological checklist for the region exists.

Checklist of Southeast Asian and New Guinean snakes

Methods

Systematics

This project does not intend to present a full revision for the snakes of the region. It merely presents the 'state of the art` and is primarily based on a survey of the scientific literature up to 2000. So far, about 2600 generic, specific, and subspecific snake names have been published but, based on current nomenclature and systematics, we only recognise 132 generic and 752 (sub-) specific valid snake names for the Southeast Asian and New Guinean region. In some cases we depart from the literature. These departures are based on personal observations, personal communications, as well as errors in the existing literature. The most important comprise the recognition of several *Xamphotyphlops* and *Typhlops* species (Wallach, 2001; pers. comm.); elevation to specific level of 2 *Python* subspecies (Keogh, in prep.); recognition of 2 valid species in *Brachyorrhos* (Wallach, 1999; pers. comm.); recognition of *Calamaria elegans* (pers. obs.); occurrence of *Pseudorabdion eiselti* (in stead of *Pseudorabdion*

longiceps), on Nias (pers. observ.); recognition of *Rhabdophis callistus* (pers. obs.); generic allocation to the genus *Asthenodipsas* of all *Internatus* species (pers. obs.); allocation to the subfamily Homalopsinae of the genus *Anoplohydrus* as suggested earlier by Iskandar (1998) and Wallach (in David & Vogel, 1996) and; the recognition of subspecies in *Tropidolaemus wagleri* (Kuch, 2000, pers. comm.). Some unpublished records based on museum specimen examinations have been added.

We follow a slightly adapted version of the familial-level classification as proposed by David & Ineich (1999). Their treatment is supplemented with data from Kraus & Brown (1998) who, based on mitochondrial DNA sequences, questioned the validity of the subfamily Calamariinae Bonaparte, 1838. They suggested relegating the 'calamarines' to the Colubrinae subfamily until contrary evidence is presented. Their work agrees with the classification as proposed by Dowling & Duelmann (1978) and seems to offer the most natural, though still tentative, classification. As such, we follow their suggestion and have included the 'Calamariinae' in the Colubrinae. Wallach & Günther (1998) have recently described an additional snake family (Xenophidiidae). In the same paper, they also propose to merge the superfamilies Tropidophioidea and Bolyeroidea into the single superfamily Tropidophioidea containing the Xenophidiidae. We have followed them. A tribal classification has been applied to the subfamily Hydrophiinae mainly for the reason of avoiding confusions caused by the inclusion of terrestrial species from New Guinea and Australia with the aquatic sea snake species. The full familial-level classification, as used in this checklist, is presented in table 1.

Checklist data

The checklist covers all species occurring in the Indo-China bioregion, comprising India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) Myanmar, Vietnam, China (Hainan), Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand; the Sunda shelf and Philippines bioregion, comprising Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia (Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali) and the Philippines; the Wallacea bioregion comprising Indonesia (Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi and Maluku) and; the New Guina and Melanesia bioregion comprising Indonesia (Aru Islands and Papua [formerly called Irian Jaya]), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. In addition some sea snakes that are, as yet, only known from the Australian parts of the Timor and Arafura Seas have been included. We refrained from listing East Timor, as we know of only one recent publication dealing with the snakes of that region. That paper was unavailable to us.

For each taxon we list the scientific name, describer and year of description. We do not present an exhaustive synonymy for each taxon but have included all genuine synonyms, replacement names and emendations, known to us. Type data, including museum

(table 2), museum numbers and type locality are listed. No attempt has been made to be complete on whether a type specimen did consist of a holo-, neo- or lecto-type, but if there is more than two specimens, it refers to syntypes. Ranges include the species' extralimital distribution and are listed politically. In addition, we list all major islands and archipelagos that are part of each country, between parenthesis. For the island of Borneo we have made a distinction between the Malaysian parts (Sarawak and Sabah), the Indonesian part (Kalimantan) and Brunei. A similar distinction is made for the island of New Guinea (Papua - Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea), and the Solomon Islands (Bougainville and Buka - Papua New Guinea, and the remaining autonomous state of Solomon Islands). Finally, some annotations were added. Notes within parenthesis refer to the related (sub-) species above while notes without refer to the whole genus. This manuscript is finished by 31st March 2001.

Genus: *Cyclotyphlops* in den Bosch & Ineich, 1994

A monotypic genus

Type species: ***Cyclotyphlops deharvengi*** in den Bosch & Ineich, 1994 from Malawa, between Maros & Watampone, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Generic Range: Indonesia

Cyclotyphlops deharvengi in den Bosch & Ineich, 1994

Type : MNHN 1990.4279 from Malawa, between Maros & Watampone, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Range : Indonesia (South Sulawesi)

Genus: *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843

(*Typhlina* Wagler, 1830 (preoccupied by *Typhlina* Ehrenberg in Hemprich, 1828); *Pseudotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 (preoccupied by *Pseudotyphlops* Schlegel, 1839); *Pilidion* Duméril & Bibron, 1844 (replacement name for *Typhlina* Wagler, 1830); *Anilios* Gray, 1845; *Typhlinalis* Gray, 1845 (replacement name for *Typhlina* Wagler, 1830); *Rhamphotyphlops* Agassiz, 1847 (unjustified emendation of *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843); *Libertadictus* Wells & Wellington, 1983)

A genus with about 50 species

Type species: ***Typhlops multilineatus*** Schlegel, 1839 from Papua, Indonesia

Generic Range: Subsaharan Africa, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Taiwan, Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Caroline, Gilbert, Marshall and Solomon Islands, Hawaii, Marianas, New Caledonia, Vanatua, Christmas and Cocos Islands, Australia, Mexico (introduced), Guatemala (introduced) and USA (introduced).

Ramphotyphlops acuticaudus Peters, 1877

(*Typhlops* (*Typhlops*) *acuticaudus* Peters, 1877)

Type : ZMB 9127 from Palau Islands

Range : Palau Islands

Ramphotyphlops albiceps (Boulenger, 1898)

(*Typhlops albiceps* Boulenger, 1898; *Typhlops malaisei* Rendahl, 1937)

Type : BMNH 1946.1.10.50 (ex 1897.10.8.17) from Chantaburi, Thailand

Range : China (including Hong Kong), Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia (Peninsula, including Similan, Kedah and Jarak)

Ramphotyphlops angusticeps (Peters, 1878)

(*Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *angusticeps* Peters, 1878; *Typhlops olivacea reduncus* Barbour, 1921)

Type : ZMB 9055 from "New Caledonia" (in error)

Range : Solomon Islands (San Christóbal, Guadalcanal, Rennel and Malaita)

Ramphotyphlops becki (Tanner, 1948)

(*Typhlops becki* Tanner, 1948)

Type : Brigham Young University 7448 from Tenaru River, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

Range : Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal)

(**Note**: According to Wallach (2001, pers. comm.) this is a valid species)

Ramphotyphlops braminus (Daudin, 1803)

(*Eryx braminus* Daudin, 1803; *Tortrix russelii* Merrem, 1820; *Argyrophis bramicus* Gray, 1845; *Argyrophis truncatus* Gray, 1845; *Onychocephalus capensis* Smith, 1845; *Ophthalmidium tenue* Hallowell, 1860; *Typhlops inscopicuus* Jan, 1863; *Typhlops accedens* Jan, 1863; *Typhlops euproctus* Boettger, 1882; *Typhlops limbrickii* Annandale, 1906; *Typhlops braminus* var. *arenicola* Annandale, 1906; *Typhlops braminus* var. *pallidus* Wall, 1909; *Glauconia braueri* Sternfield, 1910; *Typhlops fletcheri* Wall, 1919; *Typhlops pseudosaurus* Dryden & Taylor, 1969)

Type : Based on a specimen depicted in Russell (1796 pl 43, Rondoo Talooloo Pam) from Vizagapatam (now Vishakapatam), Andhra Pradesh India, specimen now lost.

Range : Subsaharan Africa, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India (including Laccadive, Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China (including Hainan and Hong Kong), Taiwan, Japan (Ryu-Kyu and Bonin Islands), Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia (Nias, Sumatra, Riau Islands, Bangka, Belitung, Kalimantan, Krakatau Islands, Java, Madura, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores, Lomblen, Sumba, Timor, Sulawesi, Buton, Selayar, Ternate, Halmahera, Buru, Saparua, Ambon, Seram, Kai Islands, Aru Islands, and Papua), Papua New Guinea (including Bismarck Islands, Bougainville), Philippines, Palau, Caroline, Gilbert, Marshall and Solomon Islands, Hawaii, Marianas, New Caledonia, Vanatua, Cocos Islands, Australia (including Christmas and Torres Straits Islands), Mexico (introduced), Guatemala (introduced) and USA (introduced)

Ramphotyphlops cumingii (Gray, 1845)

(*Onychophis cumingii* Gray, 1845; *Typhlops longicauda* Taylor, 1919; *Typhlops rugosa* Taylor, 1919; *Typhlops dendrophis* Taylor, 1922; *Typhlops mindanensis* Taylor, 1922)

Types : BMNH 1946.1.11.19-20 & 1946.1.10.83 from Philippines & "Indian Ocean"

Range : Philippines (Mindanao, Polillo, Negros, Bohol and Marinduque)

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