

NOTES ON SOME REPTILES FROM THE DUTCH-EAST-INDIES

by

Dr. J. K. DE JONG

(Buitenzorg)

This paper is based on the collection of Reptiles present in the Buitenzorg Museum. I had the opportunity to make a revision of this collection and as I found, that it contained some new and rare specimens I thought it worth while to give a list of the species of interest.

Lacertilia

Hemidactylus Garnoti D.B.

Two new localities:

Timor, collection Mrs. WALSH, II 1929, one specimen.

Wai-Sano, West Flores, collected by myself on VI 1929, one specimen.

Draco fimbriatus KUHL.

New localities:

Pekalongan, without date or collector, one specimen.

North Borneo, legit Mohari 1912, one specimen.

Japalura nasuta nov. spec.

Type locality, North Borneo, Leg. Mohari 1912, 6 specimens.

Snout as long as the diameter of the orbit. Canthus rostralis sharp in the male, rounded in the female. Supraciliary edge somewhat erect, prominent, a little serrated, composed of flat compressed scales. This row of scales is followed by a much shorter row on the canthus rostralis, which is separated from the compressed supranasal by 2 (3) very small scales in the male, by 5 (4) in the female. Upper head scales keeled irregular, those on the occiput and on the supraocular region largest. Two or three enlarged scales on the temporal region. No tubercle behind the supraciliary edge. Gular pouch and gular fold indistinct. A laterally compressed vertical appendage on the tip of the snout, which is narrowest at the base and covered with imbricate keeled scales. The anterior edge is serrated and slightly curved backward. The length of the appendage is 3 mm. Nostril in the nasal, the laterally compressed supranasal is pointing outward. Tympanum hidden. 9 (8) keeled upperlabials, 8 (9) keeled lowerlabials; 4 or 5 enlarged chinshields on each side. A small nuchal crest in the male, composed of 7 small erect scales, with 2 rows of still smaller erect scales at the base. The dorsal crest on the anterior part of the back is composed of

enlarged keeled scales, on the posterior part it is not more than a dorsal ridge. Nuchal and dorsal crests are indistinctly separated by a notch. In the female there is only a continuous nuchal and dorsal ridge. In both sexes the dorsal ridge continues on the tail over a distance, which does not exceed the length of the tibia.

Body slightly compressed, covered above and on the sides with small keeled scales, intermixed with larger ones, all having their points obliquely directed upward and backward. Ventral scales larger than the dorsals and laterals, strongly keeled. Limbs covered with unequal strongly keeled scales. Digits strong, bicarinate below. Caudal scales equal all strongly keeled, as large as ventrals. Tail compressed, slender, two times the length of head and body.

Limbs strong, the adpressed hindlimb reaches the tip of the snout or beyond. Tibia much longer than the skull. Fourth finger a little larger than third, much larger than fifth, fifth toe as long as third.

Colour in spirit, probably much faded, uniform light brown. A dark transverse band on the upper surface of the head, bordered on both sides by lighter ones. Tail with dark and light annuli.

Table of measurements

no.	length of head & body mm	length of tail mm	distance axilla-groin mm	length of forelimb mm	length of hindlimb mm	sex
1 (type)	53	110	25	29	55	♂
2	54	—	25	34	59	♂
3	52	102	25	31	52	♀
4	38	82	18	22	40	♀
5	52	—	23	32	54	♀
6	45	—	20	26	50	♀

Lygosoma leucostictum MÜLLER.

The description of this species is based on one specimen of uncertain locality, Java with? It is therefore of interest that I found in the collections of the Zoological Museum a second specimen of this species from Pengalengan, Malabar, West-Java, collected by OUWENS IV 1906. This specimen answers exceedingly well to the description given by MÜLLER, perhaps the earopening is somewhat larger. The number of supraciliaries is 8 on the left side, 7 on the right side. Length of head and body 142 mm, tail 85 mm.

Lygosoma fuscum (D.B.)

New locality: Soë, South Timor, collection MRS. WALSH I 1929, one specimen.

Lygosoma uniliniatum DE ROOY.

Fak Fak, New Guinea, 1 specimen.

Earopening with 3 l, 4 r. obtusely pointed lobules anteriorly. First labial fused with the nasal. Frontonasal 2/3 as broad as long. 6 supraciliaries. 33

smooth scales round the middle of the body. Praeanals not enlarged. 12 l., 14 r. lamellae under the fourth toe.

Five dark longitudinal lines, continued on the tail.

The black vertebral line is as in the type continued on the tail, but it is in this specimen accompanied by two black lines on each side.

These black lines are in the type only indicated between the shoulders (DE ROOY, Rept. Indo-Austr. Arch. I 1915 p. 208, fig. 80). The coloration as regards the black lines is apparently very variable in this species as in the specimen from Idenburg river (DE JONG, Nova Guinea XV Zool livr. 3 1927 p. 315) only part of the dorsal black line is visible.

Ophidia

Typhlops soensis nov. spec.

Type locality: Soë, South Timor, altitude 880 m, legit MRS. WALSH II 1929, 9 specimens.

Snout rounded projecting. Nostrils lateral. Rostral about half the width of the head, extending to the level of the eyes, inferior portion about one time and one third as long as broad. Nasal incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial to the rounded canthus rostralis, nearly reaching the rostral. Praeocular present, as broad as the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials. Eye distinct its anterior margin under the posterior margin of the praeocular. Praefrontal, supraocular and parietal enlarged. Praefrontal narrowly in contact with the rostral. 4 upper labials.

Body with 22 scales round the middle, its diameter 41-49 times in the total length. Tail one time to one time and three fifth as long as broad, ending in a small sharply pointed spine.

Olive above, the scales edged with light, lips white. Lower surface whitish, each scale with a brownish spot. A light transverse streak across the anal. Tail below with larger dark spots.

Table of measurements

No.	total length mm	diameter mm	length of tail mm	diameter of tail mm
type 1	230	5,—	5	4,—
2	283	5,5	5	4,5
3	227	5,—	8	5,—
4	290	6,—	6	5,—
5	275	6,—	6	5,—
6	245	5,—	5	4,5
7	150	3,5	3,5	2,5
8	225	4,5	6	3,5
9	122	3,—	3	2,—

This species is narrowly related to *T. polygrammicus* SCHLEGEL, the main difference being that the nasal cleft proceeds from the second instead from the first labial. Perhaps, when more material will be available, it will be regarded as a subspecies, but as in all my specimens the nasal cleft proceeds from the second labial, and as there are other slight differences with *T. polygrammicus* it is for the present better to regard it as a distinct species.

Typhlops polygrammicus SCHLEGEL.

One specimen collected by myself at Wai-Sano, West Flores, XI 1929.

Python molurus (L.)

Collected at Garoet, West Java, one specimen.

Nardoa boa (SCHLEGEL).

Manado, Selebes, one specimen.

This species is known from the eastern part of New-Guinea and Bismark Archipelago, so that the locality Selebes seems rather strange. As a matter of fact I am not quite sure, that the specimen mentioned above was really collected there. On the other hand however it is a rare species with burrowing habits, so that we can not be sure of the impossibility of its occurrence on Selebes either.

Of this specimen the rostral is just visible from above, the right internasal is fused with the praefrontal. One large praeocular is in contact with the frontal. There are 2 postoculars. 10 upperlabials, of which the 4th, 5th and 6th enter the eye. 4 of the posterior lower labials are pitted. Scales in 36 rows, ventrals 253, subcaudals 48 (11/11, 3, 16/16, 2, 16/16). Length of head and body 510 mm., tail 95 mm.

Elapoides fuscus BOIE.

One specimen from North Borneo collected by MOHARI 1912.

Amblycephalus laevis BOIE.

One specimen from Idjen plateau, East Java. Leg. H. LUCHT VII 1921.

Laticauda colubrina (SCHN.)

Of this species I could examine 12 specimens from different localities as shown in the table below.

The identification of some of the specimens (4, 6, 8, 9, 12) however afforded some difficulty. According to MALCOLM SMITH (Moh. Sea-Snakes 1926, p. 3) using the key to the species of *Laticauda*, the difference between *Laticauda colubrina* and *L. semifasciata* is that in the latter species the rostral is horizontally divided and the upper lip is brown. In the above mentioned specimens however the rostral is horizontally divided, but the upper lip is yellow.

In *L. semifasciata* the number of ventrals is 195-205, in *L. colubrina* 213-245. All my doubtful specimens had at least 226 ventrals, so that I identified them all as *L. colubrina*. On page 7 MALCOLM SMITH (op. cit.) gives some

no.	locality	collector	sex	number of scale-rows neck/body	ventrals sub-caudals	temporals	number of black bands	rostral divided	intersublingual
1	Dobo	—	♀	25/27	249/34	1+2	39+4	—	+
2	Dobo	—	♂	21/23	223/43	1+2	42+5	—	—
3	Dobo	—	♂	21/23	230/44	1+2	40+5	—	—
4	Kaap Toedja N. Nw. Guinea	K. Gjellerup 4-2-'12	♂	21/23	223/44	1+2	36+6	Div.	—
5	Banda	—	♂	21/23	222/44	1+2	43+6	—	+
6	Ambon Toeal	Vorster 1907	♀	23/25	228/35	1+2	44+4	Div.	+
7	Kei-Islands	H. C. Siebers III 1922	♀	23/25	235/35	1+2	38+3	—	+
8	Batavia	—	♂	23/23	214/45	1+2	47+5	Div.	+
9	Koepang	—	♂	23/25	226/38	1+3	36+4	Div.	+
10	South coast Bali	—	♂	23/23	234/43	1+2	37+4	—	+
11	South coast Bali	—	♂	23/25	236/46	1+2	42+5	—	—
12	unknown	J. Ch. F. Sohn IX, 1917	♀	23/25	226/38	1+2	32+4	Div.	+

variations which he found in different specimens. To this list we may now add: rostral sometimes horizontally divided, in many specimens from the Malay Archipelago. In one of my specimens, no. 1, the number of scales is 25 round the neck, 27 round the middle of the body. In the same specimen the number of ventrals is 249. One other scale variety is found in no. 12, where the female has 38 subcaudals. In five specimens I found a variation not mentioned by MALCOLM SMITH, cf. a small azygous shield between the anterior and the posterior sublinguals (in the table as inter-sublingual).

One other specimen not mentioned here, which I identified as *L. semifasciata* because of the low number of ventrals had a white upper lip. Examining all these variations the only difference which remains between *L. colubrina* and *L. semifasciata* is in the number of ventrals. Perhaps an other collection will prove that this difference is not valid either and then the two species will be united, although it is quite possible that it are really different species.