

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF LIZARDS AND SNAKES FROM IRAQ

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The present collection deals with 159 lizards of 19 species and 182 snakes of 11 species, collected in the years 1953-1959, by the author and his students, from Baghdad and other regions of Iraq, and preserved in the College of Education Museum. A very small number of specimens were present in the college before that period. These are also included in this work. They were without label and referred to as such in the present paper.

An interesting part of the collection, is a total of over 80 specimens of *Natrix tessellata tessellata* (Laur.), all collected in the same day from the limits of Baghdad city, in March 28, 1954, with the flood water. This, although preserved in the beginning for over a year in formalin, will be interesting in an age-growth study on this species.

GEKKONIDAE

Hemidactylus persicus Anderson, 26 specimens:

Baghdad, 25 (Dec. — June); Mousaiab, 1 (April 24/1958).

Upper labials 9-12; with or without one or two smaller, distinct granules behind; the cleft of the mouth extends beyond this limit; bordered by still smaller granules. Lower labials 8-10. 7-9 preanals, 10 in one case. The transverse bands, in our preserved material, were not distinct.

Hemidactylus flaviviridis Ruppell, 9 specimens:

Baghdad, 9 (Oct. — Feb., and April).

Upper labials 13-15. Lower labials 9-12. Femoral pores 5-7 on each side. Some have typical coloration.

Gymnodactylus scaber (Heyden), 33 specimens:

Baghdad, 17 (Oct., Dec., Feb., + May, June); Hindiya, 4 (Feb. and March/1958); Mousaiab, 1 (April 24/1958); Haditha, 1 (Oct. 19/1958); Ana, 4 (June 12/1958); Rawa, 3 (July and Aug./1958); Arbil, 1 (Summer/1958); Basra, 2 (Feb./1959).

Upper labials 11 or 12, rarely 10. Lower labials 8 or 9; but one specimen from Ana possessed 10. Preanal pores 6, sometimes 5. The markings were usually well represented.

Phyllodactylus elisae Werner, 29 specimens:

Baghdad, 22 (Jan., March and April); Ana, 3 (June 12 / 1958); Arbil, 1 (Summer/1958); Mosul, 3 (Feb./1959).

Upper labials 11-14. Lower labials 8 or 9, rarely 10 or 11. Two pairs of chin shields. No preanal or femoral pores. Young specimens, with dark spots and cross bars on the head and body; the tail with dark rings, the last two or three of which are the darkest. Of these colors, those of the distal half of the tail are the most preservative. With age, the markings tend to diffuse, becoming wide bars, and finally the dorsum becomes only cloudy, without definite markings. Only the last two or three rings persist in original (not regenerated) tails.

Ptyodactylus hasselquisti (Donndorff), 2 specimens;

Haditha, 2 (Oct. 19/1958).

Upper labials 12 or 13. Lower labials 11 or 12.

AGAMIDAE

Agama stellio stellio (L.), 2 specimens:

Sheikhan region, 2 (Summer/1958).

Agama rudrata Olivier, 2 specimens:

Rawa, 2 (Sept. 20/1958).

Uromastix microlepis Blanford, 1 specimen:

Tharthar, 1 (May 27/1956).

VARANIDAE

Varanus griseus (Daudin), 2 specimens:

Baghdad, 2 (March and May/1954).

AMPHISBAENIDAE

Diplometopon zarudnyi Nikolsky, 1 specimen:

Hindiya, 1 (May 5/1958).

LACERTIDAE

Acanthodactylus boskianus asper (Audouin), 2 specimens:

Ana, 1 (Sept. 24/1958); Rawa, 1 (Sept. 6/1958).

Supralabials, 4 to beneath the center of the eye. Femoral pores 22 or 23. Scales under the base of the tail smooth.

Ophisops elegans elegans Menetries, 12 specimens:

Sa'dia, 2 (May 3/1953); Haji Umran, 5 (Aug. 7/1958); Sakran, 4 (1958); Makhmoor, 1 (Dec. 20/1958).

Upper labials anterior to the subocular 4, with the exception of one specimen having 5 on one side. Subocular always bordering the mouth. Interparietal, which is sometimes divided, in contact with the occipital with the exception of one case. Frontal touching the first three supraoculars, or, sometimes, the second and third only. Superciliaries 4, sometimes 5, and in one case, they were 6 on one side. Prefrontals never separated by an azygos shield. Six pairs of chin shields, the anterior three pairs in contact in the middle. Femoral pores 9-13 on each side.

Ophisops blanfordi Schmidt, 1 specimen:

Baghdad, 1 (Nov. 3/1955).

Subocular reaching the labial border. Interparietal divided. Femoral pores 10.

SCINCIDAE

Mabuya vittata (Olivier).

Mabuya aurata aurata (L.), 1 specimen:

Shaklawa, 1 (July/1953).

Parietals separate. Without dorsal series of spots.

Mabuya aurata septemtaeniata (Reuss), 25 specimens:

Baghdad, 22 (Jan. — June); Mosul, 1 (Aug./1955); Hindiya, 1 (Feb. 21/1958); without label, 1.

The last two supralabials, in one specimen, were united, and their number was six. The first loreal in one, fused with the frontonasal on one side. In another, there was an additional scale in front of the fifth supralabial, and they became eight in number, the sixth was subocular. Deviations in the supraoculars include: the presence of an additional scale on one side, in one specimen; and the fusion, in part, of the first and second supraoculars on one side, in another.

Ablepharus kitaibellii (Bibron and Bory); 8 specimens:

Baghdad, 8 (Sept., Oct., and April).

In one specimen, the frontonasal touches the rostral but separated from the frontal. In some, the nuchals were four, at least on one side.

Eumeces schneiderii princeps (Eichwald), 1 specimen:

Arbil, 1 (Dec. 30/1958).

The interior of lower eyelid scaly but semitransparent. Anterior border of ear with four pointed lobules. Supraciliaries 4/5. The sixth upper labial, only, below the eye. Four pairs of nuchals. 27 scales around the body. Colors typical.

Scincus scincus conirostris Blanford, 2 specimens:

Hindiya; Najaf, 2 (Feb./1956).

In the last two specimens there were eight supralabials.

TYPHLOPIDAE

Typhlops vermicularis Merrem, 2 specimens:

Ana, 2 (July 7/1958).

LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE

Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus (Jan), 5 specimens:

Baghdad, 1 (April 18/1953); Mosul, 1 (June/1953); Shaklawa, 2 (July/1953); without label, 1.

BOIDAE

Eryx jaculus (Linn.), 8 specimens:

Baqouba, 1 (April 23/1953); Hindiya, 2 (May 5/1958); without label, 5.

Supralabials 9-11, the first 4, 5, or 6 high. The first 3, 4, 5, or 6 infralabials deep. Five scales between the eyes, sometimes 6. Mental groove distinct. Vestiges of hind legs represented by a small pointed tubercle on each side of vent.

COLUBRIDAE

Malpolon monspessulana (Hermann), 1 specimen:

Baghdad, 1 (March 28/1954).

Supralabials 8, the fourth and fifth entering the eye. Preocular semidivided. Postoculars 2. Anterior chin shields shorter than the posterior. Chin spotted.

Natrix tessellata tessellata (Laurenti), 117 specimens:

Baghdad, 107 (88, flood, of March 28/1954; 19 in every month except Jan. and the Summer months); Hindiya, 1 (Feb. 21/1958); Rawa, 1 (July 6/1958); Sheikhan region, 1 (Summer 1958); without label, 7.

Invariably, anal divided, nasal semidivided, belly blotched. Loreal often about as long as deep, sometimes a little longer or a little deeper. The state of the preoculars varies greatly as follows: most often two preoculars with one pre-subocular, in two cases only these looked like three preoculars; rarely the subocular is not completely delaminated

from the lower preocular, or looks as a lobe in the lower part of the lower preocular; less often there is no pre-subocular, and the snake then possesses only two preoculars; in few cases there were three preoculars with one pre-subocular; in still fewer specimens a case of two preoculars and two pre-suboculars is met with. The postoculars vary considerably: they are most often either three in addition to one post-subocular or two with two post-suboculars; less often there are three, and two post-suboculars; there were three postoculars only in five cases, two postoculars and one post-subocular in three cases, four postoculars and two post-suboculars in one case, and four postoculars with one post-subocular in one case also. The number of oculars and suboculars is not necessarily the same on the two sides of the body. Almost always, there were 8 supralabials, with the fourth only entering the eye; in rare cases the fifth also; and in one case the third and fourth; in three cases there were 9 supralabials, in one of them the fourth and fifth enter the eye, and in the other two the fifth only; in one case, the suture between the last two supralabials was very partial, and the snake therefore, appeared to possess seven supralabials; the condition of the supralabials is not necessarily the same on both sides.

Coluber najadum (Eichwald), 2 specimens:

Baghdad, 1 (April 30/1957); Hindiya, 1 (Feb. 1/1958).

Both possessed one preocular and one subocular, two postoculars, eight supralabials with the fourth and fifth entering the orbit, and divided anal. In the Baghdad specimen, however, the loreal was nearly as long as deep, the preocular hardly touching the frontal, and the markings on the neck distinct. In the Hindiya specimen the loreal was longer than deep, the preocular in contact with the frontal, but it was badly preserved and no markings could be seen.

Coluber jugularis asianus (Boettger), 2 specimens:

Baghdad, 1 (April 9/1954); Sukreen, 1 (Aug./1953).

In both, the loreal was longer than deep, the postoculars two, the single preocular with one subocular, the supralabials eight, the fourth and fifth enter the eye, the anal divided, and the belly blotched. In the Sukreen specimen, there was an additional small scale between the loreal and the pre-subocular.

Coluber ventromaculatus Gray, 30 specimens:

Baghdad, 16 (Oct. — Jan. and March — June; 5, flood of March 28/1954); Naseriya, 1 (July 14/1953); Diwaniya, 1 (July/1957); Rawa, 1 (Sept. 24/1958); Ana, 1 (Aug. 17/1958); without label 10.

Invariably the anal was divided and the posterior chin shields completely separated by scales medially. All possessed the particular color of the species with the exception of five cases where the light interspaces, at least anteriorly, were narrower than the vertebral blotches or bars. Always there were one preocular with one pre-subocular, the former sometimes scarcely touching the frontal. Postoculars always two. The loreal about as long as deep or very little longer or deeper. In the loreal region, in three specimens, there was an additional small scale between the pre-subocular and the loreal on one side only. Almost always there were nine supralabials with the fifth and sixth entering the eye. In four cases, one of the anterior supralabials was missing and the snake therefore, possessed eight supralabials with the fourth and fifth entering the eye. In one case only there was an additional anterior supralabial and the snake possessed ten supralabials with the sixth and seventh entering the eye.

Coluber ravergeri Menetries, 2 specimens:

Mosul, 1 (Aug. 24/1953); Shaklawa, 1 (Aug. 5/1953).

In both, the loreal was as long as deep; the preoculars two, the upper one in contact with the frontal, with one pre-subocular; the postoculars two; the supralabials ten with the fifth and sixth entering the eye, the eighth very small, in Shaklawa specimen this small eighth labial was missing on one side and the snake possessed on this side therefore nine supralabials but still the fifth and sixth entering the orbit; an additional small scale was present over the fourth supralabial between the loreal and the pre-subocular; the infralabials ten; the anal divided; the keels of the scales become distinguishable at a distance behind the neck.

Spaterosophis cliffordi (Schlegel), 11 specimens:

Baghdad, 3 (March and May/1954); Haditha, 1 (Oct. 23/1958); Rawa, 1 (Sept. 2/1958); without label, 6.

Preoculars 2; in one specimen, the two preoculars were united on one side. Postoculars 2 or 3. Suboculars 3 or 4. Supralabials 11 or 12; sometimes the ninth, tenth, or eleventh not quite entering the labial border; in one case only, there were 10 supralabials. Infralabials 11 or 12; in one case only, there were 13. Loreals two, one behind the other, sometimes the anterior one very much smaller than the posterior; in one specimen, there was only one loreal on one side. Anal entire; in one case, it looked as if it was partly divided at base. The faint keels become distinguishable further back, especially near the tail.

Lytorhynchus diadema (Dumeril and Bibron), 2 specimens, no label.

* Pupil round. Loreal about as long as deep. One pre- and one sub-ocular. Two postoculars. Eight supralabials, the fifth enter the orbit. Nine or ten infralabials. Anterior and posterior chin shields subequal.

REFERENCE

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الخلاصة

ملاحظات عن مجموعة من العظايا والحيات جمعت من العراق

للدكتور كامل خلف

الاستاذ المساعد في كلية التربية - بغداد

يتناول هذا المقال مجموعة من العظايا يبلغ عددها ١٥٩ تنتمي الى ١٩ نوعا ، ومجموعة أخرى من الحيات يبلغ عددها ١٨٢ تنتمي الى ١١ نوعا - وجميعها جمعت بين سنتي ١٩٥٣ - ١٩٥٩ من قبل المؤلف وطلابه من منطقة بغداد وبعض المناطق الأخرى في العراق ، وهي محفوظة في متحف قسم الأحياء بكلية التربية . وقد تناول البحث مجموعة أخرى من النماذج كانت موجودة في الكلية قبل ذلك التاريخ .

وفي كثير من الأحوال وصفت الأنواع وصفا علميا دقيقا ، كما ذكرت المناطق التي جمع منها النوع وتاريخ الجمع .