

THE  
**JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH.**

**EDITORIAL NOTICE.**

Owing to the increased cost of production the Editor regrets that he is no longer able to bear the annual loss upon this publication.

With the outbreak of the war the advance in the cost of production entailed a larger loss than usual, and a further recent advance and a reduction in the foreign circulation during 1916-18 has considerably increased the deficit.

The cessation of the Journal, it is hoped, will not be necessary, but in order to avoid such the Editor appeals with some confidence to the Subscribers and Contributors for some assistance. In order to continue the Journal until the end of 1918, a sum of at least £60 will be necessary to meet the *extra cost*.

A few donations have already been received, a list of which will be published later.

The Editor trusts that after bearing the entire financial loss for a period of upwards of twelve years, the Subscribers and Contributors will relieve him of this extra burden during the present year.

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THE  
**JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH.**

A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIZARDS OF THE GENUS *EREMIAS*.

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THE species of the genus *Eremias*, Wieg., of which I have recently made a thorough revision, based on a material comprising some 700 specimens, are a subject of considerable difficulty to the systematist, and I think a key to their identification will prove useful as a preliminary contribution to a monograph which I hope may be published some day.

As regards the Central Asian species, of which the series at my disposal have not been as extensive as I could wish, I have fortunately been able to avail myself of the excellent and detailed descriptions, based on over 500 specimens, which Dr. J. de Bedriaga has recently published in the herpetological part of the Results of the Przewalski Expedition, although some points remain which cannot be settled to my satisfaction without direct comparison of the specimens preserved in the Museum of the Academy of Petrograd.

Thirty-four species are regarded by me as more or less well established, six of which are not known to me from autopsy.<sup>1</sup>

The genus *Eremias* is taken as defined in the third volume of the British Museum Catalogue of Lizards, published in 1887. To the diagnosis given in that work the following remarks may be added:—The parietal foramen is constantly present. Pterygoid teeth are more frequently present than absent, and it does not seem possible to make use of this character for the definition of species. There are usually three series of scales round the toes: an upper, a lower, and a more or less complete outer; a keel, corresponding to the middle of the lower surface of the claw, as in the Section *Pseuderemias*, may be accompanied by one or two others on the outer side of it, as is the case in most species; or the three series of scales are one upper and two lower, each of the latter with a keel, as in *E. argus*, in which case the subdigital scales may be described as in two rows; or again, in addition to these there may be one or two series of small lateral scales on the toe, which is thus surrounded by four or five scales, as in *E. arguta*. The scales on the sides of the toes may form a very slight denticulation (*E. fasciata*,

<sup>1</sup>*E. neumanni, bedriagai, nikolskii, regli, quadrifrons, plesket.*

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*vermiculata, arguta*), thus leading to the genus *Scaptira*, in which the character is more pronounced.

The genus may be divided into five sections, which I am convinced represent perfectly natural associations :—

1. LAMPREMIAS, n.n.—Type: *E. nitida*, Gthr.
2. PSEUDEREMIAS, Boettger (*Boulengeria*, Lataste).—Type: *E. mucronata*, Blanf.
3. TAENIEREMIAS, n.n.—Type: *E. guineensis*, Blgr.
4. MESALINA, Gray.—Type: *E. rubropunctata*, Licht.
5. EREMIAS, s. str.—Type: *E. velox*, Pall.

I regard the genus *Eremias* as certainly derived from *Nucras*, Gray, the two first species of Section 1 establishing the connexion. Judging from the description, *E. neumanni* appears to agree with *Nucras* in the arrangement of the nasal shields, and I have seen specimens of *E. argus* which, owing to the wide separation of the subnasal (= lower postnasal) from the rostral, answer to the definition of that genus so far as this character is concerned, the essential difference between the two genera residing in the presence in the one and the absence in the other of keels on the subdigital scales, in the same way as *Latastia* is separated from *Lacerta*.

As in *Nucras*, the striated livery of the young of many species (Sections 1, 4, 5) is of a very primitive type; 7 to 10 light streaks on the neck, 7 to 9 on the body; there is a frequent tendency for these streaks to break up into ocellar black-edged spots, which may become converted into transverse series, and, running together and losing the light centres, may eventually form black cross-bars, an evolution in the pattern of markings exactly similar to that which I have recently described in *Nucras*.<sup>1</sup>

The species of Sections 4 and 5, although more remote from *Nucras* than those of Section 1, have probably been independently derived from the same stock, and evolved on somewhat parallel lines, as is indicated by the similarity in the arrangement of the ventral plates between certain specimens of the more advanced South African species (*E. lineo-ocellata, aspera, burchelli, capensis*) and those of the Asiatic group constituting the typical *Eremias*, which, though typical in virtue of the rules of nomenclature, are the most remote from the original type as I conceive it.

*Eremias* is completely linked with *Scaptira*, Wiegman,<sup>2</sup> in which

<sup>1</sup> Cf. figures in Ann. S. Afr. Mus., 1917, xiii, pls vi, vii.

<sup>2</sup> *Scaptira aporoscelus*, Alcock and Finn, in which femoral pores are absent, deserves to form a distinct genus for which I propose the name *Macmahonia* in honour of Sir A. H. McMahon, of the Afghan-Baluch Boundary Commission of 1896.

the digits are more or less strongly denticulated laterally, and which may be divided into three sections: *Meroles*, Gray (type: *S. knoxii*, M.-Edw.), *Saurites*, Peters (type: *S. cuneirostris*, Strauch), and *Scaptira*, s. str. (type: *S. grammica*, Licht.).

The *Scaptira* of the first and second sections are South African, and no doubt derived from South African *Eremias* of the Section *Mesalina*, whilst those of the third are Asiatic, like the members of the Section *Eremias* proper, to which they stand in close relation. There is no denying the fact that *Scaptira*, in the sense in which I take it, is a diphyletic genus; the species, derived from different forms of *Eremias*, agreeing in the stronger serration of the digits, are thus brought together as a result of convergence, such as accounts for many of our taxonomic groups. If, however, objection should be felt to the course I have followed, I would suggest uniting the two genera, keeping up the different sections mentioned above, rather than resort to the otherwise inevitable further multiplication of the genera.

#### SYNOPSIS OF THE SPECIES.

Section I. *Lampreremias*, Blgr. Three nasals, the lower in contact with the first upper labial, with the rostral or not; ventral plates in 6 or 8 straight longitudinal series; toes not or but feebly compressed, with bi- or tricarinate lamellae inferiorly.

Tropical Africa.

Lower nasal narrowly in contact with the rostral; upper head-shields smooth; frontal in contact with the supraoculars; 42 to 50 keeled scales across middle of body; ventrals in 6 longitudinal series; 21 to 24 lamellae under the fourth toe. 1. *E. nitida*, Gthr., 1872.

Lower nasal separated from the rostral; upper head-shields smooth; frontal in contact with the supraoculars; 46 keeled scales across middle of body; ventrals in 8 longitudinal series.

2. *E. neumanni*, Torn., 1905.

Lower nasal extensively in contact with the rostral; upper head-shields striated; frontal separated from supraoculars by a series of scales; 60 to 77 keeled scales across middle of body; ventrals in 6 longitudinal series; 20 to 26 lamellae under the fourth toe.

3. *E. speki*, Gthr., 1872.<sup>1</sup>

Lower nasal extensively in contact with the rostral; upper head-shields smooth; frontal separated from supraoculars by a series of scales; 68 to 87 keeled scales across middle of body; ventrals in 6 longitudinal series; 25 to 29 lamellae under the fourth toe.

4. *E. lugubris*, A. Smith, 1838.

<sup>1</sup> Including *E. sextatata*, Stejneger.

Section II. *Pseuderemias*, Boettg. Four nasals, the lower in contact with the two or three first upper labials, the anterior also with the rostral; ventral plates in 6 to 10 straight longitudinal series; toes strongly compressed, with uncarinate lamellae inferiorly; frontal separated from the supraoculars by a series of scales. N.E. Africa and Sinaitic Peninsula.

A. Upper head-shields smooth or rugose, not striated.

Upper head-shields smooth or a little rugose; 65 to 80 smooth or feebly keeled scales across middle of body; upper caudal scales strongly keeled; ventral plates in 6 or 8 longitudinal series; subocular often bordering the mouth. 5. *E. mucronata*, Blanf., 1870.

Upper head-shields rugose or pitted; 68 to 82 smooth scales across middle of body; upper caudal scales strongly keeled; ventral plates in 8 or 10 longitudinal series; subocular not reaching the mouth.

6. *E. smithii*, Blgr., 1895.

Upper head-shields smooth; 53 to 60 keeled scales across middle of body; upper caudal scales feebly keeled; ventral plates in 8 longitudinal series; subocular not reaching the mouth.

7. *E. erythrostickta*, Blgr., 1891.

B. Upper head-shields striated; ventral plates in 6 or 8 longitudinal series.

Upper head-shields coarsely striated; 53 to 67 keeled scales across middle of body; subocular bordering the mouth; 13 to 18 femoral pores on each side.

8. *E. striata*, Peters, 1874.

Upper head-shields finely striated; 65 to 68 keeled scales across middle of body; subocular not reaching the mouth; 20 to 24 femoral pores on each side.

9. *E. brenneri*, Peters, 1869.

Section III. *Taenieremias*, Blgr. Three nasals, the lower and the posterior resting on the first upper labial; ventral plates in 10 straight longitudinal series; no occipital; toes feebly compressed, with tricarinate lamellae inferiorly. West Africa.

Sixty smooth scales across middle of body; 21 femoral pores on each side.

10. *E. guineensis*, Blgr., 1887.

Section IV. *Mesalina*, Gray. Three nasals, the lower in contact with the rostral and the first (very rarely first and second) upper labial; ventral plates in 10 to 18 (exceptionally 8) straight longitudinal series, rarely irregular or tessellated; occipital usually present; toes feebly compressed, with bi- or tricarinate lamellae inferiorly. Africa and S.W. Asia.

A. North African and Asian species. Collar curved or angular, sometimes distinct on the sides only.

1. Nasals in contact behind the rostral; 32 to 62 scales across middle of body; 9 to 17 femoral pores on each side.

Head and body rather strongly depressed, limbs moderately slender; head  $1\frac{2}{3}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times as long as broad; occipital present, nearly always in contact with the interparietal or separated from it by a small shield; ventral plates in 10 (rarely 8) longitudinal series; scales on upper surface of tibia keeled. 11. *E. guttulata*, Licht., 1823.<sup>1</sup>

Head and body strongly depressed, limbs very slender; head  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as broad; occipital absent or minute and not in contact with interparietal; ventral plates in 10 longitudinal series; scales on upper surface of tibia smooth or obtusely keeled.

12. *E. adramitana*, Blgr., 1917.

Habit rather stout; head  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times as long as broad; occipital absent or minute and not in contact with interparietal; ventral plates in 12 (rarely 10) longitudinal series; scales on upper surface of tibia smooth or obtusely keeled. 13. *E. brevisrostris*, Blanf., 1874.

2. Rostral often in contact with frontonasal; 53 to 67 scales across middle of body; occipital present; ventral plates in 12 (rarely 10 or 14) longitudinal series; 13 to 22 femoral pores on each side. 14. *E. rubropunctata*, Licht., 1823.

B. South African species. Collar straight and perfectly free.

1. A narrow tympanic shield; ventral plates in 10 or 12 longitudinal series;  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the lateral border of the frontal in contact with the two large supraoculars; nasals in contact behind the rostral.

Lower eyelid semitransparent, with 10 to 12 feebly enlarged scales in the middle; 47 to 65 scales across middle of body; ventral plates in 12 (rarely 10) longitudinal and 28 to 32 transverse series.

15. *E. namaquensis*, D. & B., 1839.

Lower eyelid with a large transparent disc formed of 2 to 6 black-edged scales; 58 to 73 scales across middle of body; ventral plates in 10 (rarely 12) longitudinal and 27 to 31 transverse series.

16. *E. undata*, A. Smith, 1838.

Lower eyelid with a large transparent disc formed of a single black-edged scale; 52 to 67 scales across middle of body; ventral plates in 10 longitudinal and 27 to 31 transverse series.

17. *E. benguelensis*, Bocage, 1867.

<sup>1</sup> Including *E. pardaloides*, Blanf.

2. No tympanic shield; ventral plates in 12 to 18 (rarely 10) longitudinal series, often irregular or tessellated.

a. Lower eyelid with a large transparent disc, formed of two large black-edged scales.

Upper head-shields smooth or feebly rugose; 53 to 73 scales across middle of body, smooth or keeled, ventral plates in 12 (rarely 10 or 14) longitudinal and 31 to 37 transverse series; anterior border of ear with 3 or 4 projecting scales; 23 to 30 lamellae under the fourth toe.

18. *E. lineo-ocellata*, D. & B., 1839.<sup>1</sup>

Upper head-shields very rugose; 51 to 56 strongly keeled scales across middle of body; ventral plates in 12 or 14 longitudinal and 33 to 37 transverse series; no projecting scales in front of the ear; 21 lamellae under the fourth toe.

19. *E. aspera*, Blgr., 1917.

b. Lower eyelid opaque or semitransparent, with 10 to 15 feebly enlarged scales in the middle.

Sixty-five to 75 scales across middle of body; ventrals in 14 (rarely 16) longitudinal, and 29 to 35 transverse series; nasals in contact behind the rostral.

20. *E. burchelli*, D. & B., 1839.

Forty-eight to 62 scales across middle of body; ventrals in 16 or 18 longitudinal, and 31 to 36 transverse series; rostral nearly always in contact with the frontonasal.

21. *E. capensis*, A. Smith, 1838.

Section V. *Eremias*, s. str. Three nasals (exceptionally four), the lower in contact with the two or three anterior upper labials; ventral plates in 12 to 20 very irregular or oblique longitudinal series, converging posteriorly; occipital absent; toes cylindrical or compressed, with uni-, bi-, or tricarinate lamellae inferiorly.

S.E. Europe and Asia.

A. The first of the two large supraoculars as long as or longer than the distance from the second loreal (with rare exceptions); subocular bordering the mouth; 15 to 25 femoral pores on each side, the two series meeting or separated by a space not exceeding  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of each.

1. Twelve to 16 ventral plates in the longest transverse series; 18 to 35 gular scales in a straight median series.

a. Foot rarely more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times the length of the head; 19 to 25 lamellae under the fourth toe; gular fold usually distinct; 48 to 63 scales across middle of body.

a. Rostral not more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times as broad as deep; snout pointed, nasals swollen.

<sup>1</sup>Including *E. pulchella*, Gray.

Nineteen to 35 gular scales in a straight median series; 28 to 35 transverse series of ventral plates.

22. *E. velox*, Pall., 1771.

Eighteen gular scales in a straight median series; 26 transverse series of ventral plates.

23. *E. bedriagae*, Nik., 1911.

β. Rostral more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times as broad as deep; snout very obtuse, nasals not or but feebly swollen; 20 to 23 gular scales in a straight median series.

Rostral  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times as broad as deep; 31 transverse series of ventral plates.

24. *E. nikolskii*, Bedr., 1905.

Rostral  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times as broad as deep, extensively in contact with the lower nasal; 26 transverse series of ventral plates.

25. *E. regeli*, Bedr., 1905.

b. Foot more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times the length of the head; 25 to 30 lamellae under the fourth toe; no gular fold; 45 to 55 scales across middle of body.

26. *E. fasciata*, Blanf., 1874.

2. Eighteen or 20 ventral plates in the longest transverse series; 31 to 43 gular scales in a straight median series; 59 to 71 scales across middle of body.

27. *E. vermiculata*, Blanf., 1875.

B. The first of the two large supraoculars longer than its distance from the second loreal; 9 to 19 femoral pores on each side, the two series broadly separated in the middle, the space usually at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of each, very rarely  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

1. Twenty-seven to 47 gular scales in a straight median series, usually 30 to 41; nasals not or scarcely swollen; subocular rarely reaching the mouth; 54 to 70 scales across middle of body; 11 to 19 femoral pores on each side.

Sixteen ventral plates in the longest transverse series; rostral broader than deep; 4 prefrontals, the outer narrow.

28. *E. quadrifrons*, Strauch, 1876.

Sixteen to 22 ventral plates in the longest transverse series; usually 18; rostral as deep as broad; 2 prefrontals.

29. *E. przewalskii*, Strauch, 1876.

2. Twenty to 36 gular scales in a straight median series, usually 22 to 30; 47 to 62 scales across middle of body.

Sixteen or 18 ventral plates in the longest transverse series; nasals not or scarcely swollen; parietals as long as broad; subocular bordering the mouth; 15 to 17 femoral pores on each side.

30. *E. pleskei*, Bedr., 1907.

Fourteen or 16 (rarely 18) ventral plates in the longest transverse series; nasals not or scarcely swollen; parietals a little longer than broad; subocular often bordering the mouth; 9 to 15 femoral pores on each side.

31. *E. multiocellata*, Gthr., 1872.<sup>1</sup>

Sixteen or 18 ventral plates in the longest transverse series; nasals rather strongly swollen; parietals not longer than broad; frontal often separated from the supraoculars by a series of granules; subocular not reaching the mouth; 12 to 17 femoral pores on each side.

32. *E. intermedia*, Strauch, 1876.

C. The first of the two large supraoculars at most as long as, usually shorter than, its distance from the second loreal; 7 to 14 femoral pores on each side, the two series broadly separated in the middle, the space at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of each; 39 to 62 scales across middle of body.

Twelve or 14 ventral plates in the longest transverse series; fronto-nasal divided into two; 3 or 4 series of scales round the toes.

33. *E. argus*, Peters, 1869.<sup>2</sup>

Sixteen or 20 (rarely 14) ventral plates in the longest transverse series; frontonasal single; 4 or 5 series of scales round the toes.

34. *E. arguta*, Pall., 1771.

#### THE VARIETIES OF *Eremias guttulata*, Licht.

*Eremias guttulata* is a widely distributed (North Africa to North-Western India) and polymorphic species, extreme individuals of which might be regarded as representing valid species. It may be divided into a number of forms, which are so completely linked as to be difficult of definition:—

1. *Forma typica*.—Egypt (the type), Nubia and Eastern Soudan, Tripoli, Tunisia, Algerian Sahara, Arabia, Syria, Transcaspia, Persia, Baluchistan, Afghanistan, Sind.

2. Var. *olivieri*, Audouin, part. (Descr. Egypte, pl. ii, fig. 2) =

<sup>1</sup>I am rather embarrassed how to deal with *E. buchneri*, Bedr. A specimen from Alashan received under that name from the Museum of the Petrograd Academy in 1899, although agreeing fairly well in form and markings with Bedriaga's figure, has the rostral as broad as deep and the nasals scarcely swollen, and cannot be separated from *E. multiocellata*, var. *yarhandensis*, Blanf. It is possible, however, that this specimen does not represent the true *E. buchneri*, as Alashan specimens appear to have been since referred to *E. multiocellata*, distinguished by the greater flatness of the nasal shields; it must however be borne in mind that the swollen nasals of *E. buchneri* are not regarded by Bedriaga as absolutely constant, occurring only "in zahlreichen Fällen" according to the original description.

<sup>2</sup>Including *E. brenchleyi*, Gthr., as explained further on.

*E. simoni*, Boettg., *guichenoti*, Doum.—Lower Egypt (the type), Sinaïtic Peninsula, Tunisia, Algeria (Sahara and Prov. Oran), Morocco, Rio de Oro, South of Morocco. In only a few localities (Sinaïtic Peninsula, Tunisia, Algerian Sahara) side by side with the typical form.

3. Var. *martini*, Blgr.—Obok (type), Somaliland, Red Sea Province of the Soudan, Aden, Sinaïtic Peninsula.

4. Var. *latastii*, n.—At or near Aumale, Prov. Algiers.

5. Var. *susana*, n.—Susa, Tunisia.

6. Var. *balfourii*, Blanf.—Socotra.

The following key shows the principal characters on which they are based:—

I. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc formed of a pair of large scales, usually edged with black, sometimes with a series of much smaller scales below them; snout usually pointed and a little longer than broad.

Thirty-six to 54 (usually 39 to 47) smooth scales across middle of body; 9 to 16 (usually 10 to 14) femoral pores on each side; usually not striated, exceptionally with two white streaks on each side.

*F. typica*.

II. Lower eyelid with an opaque or more or less transparent disc formed of 3 to 8 pieces, not black-edged.

A. Snout usually obtusely pointed and not or but slightly longer than broad.

Thirty-five to 48 (usually 40 to 47) smooth scales across middle of body; 9 to 15 femoral pores on each side; striation predominates on the back; body usually reddish-brown with 5 grey longitudinal streaks, or pale sand colour with a broad grey vertebral band edged with blackish and with two white streaks on each side.

Var. *olivieri*.

Thirty-two to 38 smooth scales round middle of body; 12 to 14 femoral pores on each side; striated, grey or pale brown above, with 3 darker streaks on each side, the middle one broadest, separated from the upper and from the lower by light streaks.

Var. *martini*.

Forty-seven to 62 smooth scales across middle of body; 14 to 17 (rarely 12 or 13) femoral pores on each side; 2 light streaks on each side.

Var. *latastii*.

Fifty-two keeled scales across middle of body; 13 or 14 femoral pores on each side; no striation.

Var. *susana*.

B. Snout narrow and pointed, as in the most extreme specimens of the typical form; size larger (up to 58 millim. from snout to vent).

Thirty-six to 42 smooth scales across middle of body; 11 to 15 femoral pores on each side; usually with 2 white streaks on each side.

Var. *balfouri*.<sup>1</sup>

The vars. *olivieri* and *martini* must be regarded as the most primitive forms, from which all the others are directly and independently derived.

*Eremias argus*, var. *brenchleyi*, Gthr.

Only about a dozen specimens of this form are known to exist in collections, and it is therefore difficult to decide whether it should rank as a variety of *E. argus* or as a distinct species. Considering the characters which have been adduced in favour of its specific distinction as either too slight or as occurring also in annectant specimens of *E. argus*, I prefer, for the present, to treat it as a variety. The differences adduced in favour of the distinction are certainly not greater than those between the varieties of *E. multiocellata*.

The latest definition is that given by Bedriaga (Przewalski Exped.), and is here repeated, the structural characters from his Synopsis (p. 505), the coloration from his diagnoses (pp. 645 and 655):—

*E. argus*. Subocular not reaching the labial margin; frontal shorter than or as long as the greatest width of the two frontoparietals; tail short, at most  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as head and body. Brown above, with numerous oblong-oval light ocellar spots in longitudinal series, mostly incompletely surrounded with dark brown and transversely connected by dark brown spots.

*E. brenchleyi*. Subocular reaching the labial margin; frontal longer than the greatest width of the two frontoparietals; tail long, more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times head and body. Dorsal region with or without dark spots, sides with two series of light ocelli, of which the lower is replaced by a light streak.

Although fulfilling its purpose in most cases, this comparative definition may be misleading in others. Bedriaga has himself stated in his detailed description that one of the specimens of *E. argus* in the Petrograd Museum has the subocular as in *E. brenchleyi*, for which reason Strauch had previously referred it to the latter. There are other exceptions; two specimens, from Pekin and Aisun, in the British Museum, and, I believe, others in the Genoa Museum, combine the

<sup>1</sup>Blanford's statement, "General form rather stouter than that of *E. pardalis* (= *guttulata*), tail shorter, limbs stouter and shorter" is not confirmed by measurements of the type specimens, in all four of which the tail is imperfect, as correctly mentioned in the original description.

subocular of *E. brenchleyi* with the ocellated back of *E. argus*.<sup>1</sup> I have come across several specimens<sup>2</sup> of *E. argus* in which the frontal is longer than the width of the frontoparietals.

The tail in the type of *E. brenchleyi* is not quite  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of head and body, whilst it may be  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times in *E. argus*. Bedriaga mentions, it is true, specimens with the tail nearly twice as long as head and body, a length greater than in any of the specimens I have been able to examine; but the fact nevertheless remains that the wording of his definition would be misleading as regards the British Museum specimens. In examining the coloration of a large number of *E. argus*, I have noticed exceptional examples, from Chefoo, which would fall under the definition of *E. brenchleyi*.

Having disposed of these characters, I will pass on to two others which have been pointed out by Bedriaga in his full descriptions of the two species. First, the head of *E. brenchleyi* is more flattened, with the snout more pointed. This is true, but some *E. argus* have the snout less obtuse than others, and the convexity of the head is also subject to some variation, the extremes between the two supposed species being no greater than between individuals united by me under *Lacerta taurica*; the comparison with *L. agilis* and *L. muralis* is an exaggeration for which Boettger is responsible. I may add that there is no difference in the shape of the head between young specimens from Pekin, 35 millim. long without the tail, referable to the two forms. The second and most important character resides in the larger dorsal scales, there being 39 to 46 across the middle of the body in *E. brenchleyi*, and 46 to 62 in *E. argus*; there is thus an overlap, which would probably be greater if more specimens of the former could be examined. In all other respects the two forms agree, the further differences pointed out by J. G. Fischer being merely individual.

Apart from the character of the subocular, the var. *brenchleyi* may be defined as combining a usually lower number of scales across the body, a somewhat flatter head with a more pointed snout, a usually longer tail, and the presence of a dark lateral band edged above by a series of ocellar spots and below by an uninterrupted white streak.

Whether these characters justify specific distinction, a larger material will show. I have myself examined only three specimens.

<sup>1</sup>These specimens have 53 and 61 scales across the body respectively.

<sup>2</sup>Five from Chefoo, 3 from Pekin, 2 from Chih Feig, 1 from N. China, 1 from N.E. Mongolia.

Measurements, in millimetres :—

	1.	2.	3.
From end of snout to vent - - -	52	40	35
" " " " " fore limb - - -	18	15	13
Head - - - - -	13	10	9
Width of head - - - - -	7.5	7	6
Depth of head - - - - -	5.5	4.5	4
Fore limb - - - - -	19	14	11
Hind limb - - - - -	28	22	20
Foot - - - - -	14	12	11
Tail - - - - -	77	—	46

1—Female, Mongolia, type. 2—Hgr. Chikiang. 3—Yg. Pekin.

*Habitat.*—Mongolia (Land of Grass, Ordos), Northern China (Pekin, Chikiang, Khalgan, and Nankon Pass), and Transbaikalia (Silenginsk).