

HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES

CHAPMAN GRANT, Major, U. S. Army

Aristelliger cochranæ

Aristelliger cochranæ was described as a new species in this Journal, Vol XV, pp. 399-400. Noble and Klingel have described a new genus in American Museum Novitates, No. 549, p. 4, under the name of *Aristelligella* to which they refer our new species.

Sphaerodactylus

The same authors, p. 11 et seq. describe a new *Sphaerodactyl* and in discussing variation and sexual differences state: ". . . We are indebted to Major Grant for his discovery of a reliable secondary sexual character of value in distinguishing sexes [the "escutcheon" of the male] . . . As a matter of practice we find the hypertrophy of these scales the [escutcheon] less diagnostic of sex than another male character which we believe has not been hitherto described. The posterior lip of the cloaca is very much broader in the *adult* male than in the *adult* female [italics mine] . . . The only adult males in our series which do not show this distinctive lip are not well preserved or are so bent that the cloacal lips do not meet in the normal way. In checking through the series of *sphaerodactyls* in the American Museum we find the lip less variable than the hypertrophied scales [escutcheon]."

My study of a series of 2,035 specimens of nine species from the Puerto Rico Area has shown that the escutcheon is visible in newly hatched specimens and not confined to "adults". We do not read in what way the escutcheon is "less diagnostic" than the character of cloacal lips found only in "adults" and invisible in "not well preserved" or "bent" specimens. We read that "the lip is less variable than the" escutcheon. The escutcheon is present regardless of variability on all males of whatever age, state of preservation or bending. Nothing is claimed for species occurring outside of the Puerto Rico Area.

Further we read: "Grant (1931) lays considerable emphasis on sexual dichromatism as a diagnostic species character in his *sphaerodactyls* from Puerto Rico and adjacent areas . . . In *inaguæ*, [*S. inaguæ*] we have been able to establish definitely that there is considerable variation in color, and the sexes of adults cannot always

be distinguished by difference in coloration . . . In view of the wide limits of variation in *inaguae*, it seems probable that other species of *Sphaerodactyls* are more variable than Grant and others have assumed."

In my description of new species and rediscussions of known species the following points have been brought out in various articles in this Journal:

There is no sexual dichromatism whatever at any age in *S. klauberi*, *nicholsi*, *townsendi*, *gaigeae* or *monensis*.

Sexual dichromatism is present and forms an *almost* infallible character in *adults* of *S. grandisquamis*, *macrolepis* and *danforthi*.

Sexual dichromatism most marked from newly hatched to adults in *S. roosevelti*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Herpetological titles of the Puerto Rico and Virgin Island Areas published since the works of L. Stejneger, 1904, Smithsonian Inst. No. 129 and K. P. Schmidt, 1928, N. Y. Acad. Sci. Vol. X. Part 1 or omitted by them. Exclusive of articles published in this Journal consecutively from July, 1931.

AMARAL, A. do.

1929. Lista Remissiva dos Ophidios da Regiao Neotropica. Mem. Inst. Butantan, IV. pp. 126-217.

ATILES, FRANCISCO DEL VALLE.

1887. Los Animales Vertebrados Utiles. Puerto Rico. pp. 28-30.
(List of reptiles and their food habits.)

BARBOUR, THOMAS.

1930. A List of Antillean Reptiles and Amphibians. Zoologica, XI No. 4 pp. 61-116.

1930. The Anoles I. The Forms Known to Occur on the Neotropical Islans. Bull. M.C.Z., LXX, No. 3.

DE SOLA, C. RALPH AND GREENHALL, ARTHUR M.

1932. Two Species of Terrapin in Cuba: The Antillean Terrapin *Pseudemys rugosa*, and the Cuban Terrapin, *Pseudemys decussata*. Copiea, No. 3. pp. 129-133.

DEXTER, RAQUEL R.

1932. Habits of the Imported Toad, *Bufo marinus*, in the Sugar Cane Sections of Puerto Rico. International Soc. of Sugar Cane Technologists. Bull. No. 74 Puerto Rico. pp. 1-6.

DUTERTRE.

1654. Histoire Naturelle et Morale des Iles Antilles de L'Amérique, etc. This work includes St. Croix. Plagerized 1658 by L. de Poincey and in 1681 by C. de Rochefort.

GRANT, CHAPMAN.

1931. A New Frog from Porto Rico (*E. karlschmidti*) Copeia, No. 2. pp. 55-56. text fig. Notes on the Ameivas of Porto Rico, id. p. 62. Notes on *Bufo marinus* (D) id. p. 62.
1931. Notes on *Pseudemys stejnegeri*, Copeia No. 3. p. 142.

MAY, D. W.

1929. Surinam and Dominican Toads. Report of the Puerto Rico Agri. Exp. Sta., Oct. fig. 3. p. 4.

NOBLE, G. K. AND KLINGEL, G. C.

1932. The Reptiles of Great Inagua Island, British West Indies. Am. Mus. Novitates, No. 549 pp. 4-6 and 13-16. (Refers to *Sphaerodactyls* of P. R.)

STULL, OLIVE GRIFFITH.

1931. Corrections to Some Recent Papers on Neotropical Snakes. Bull. Antivenin Inst. of Amer. V. No. 2. pp. 39-41. (Refers to Boas of P. R.)

TAYLOR, CHAS. EDWIN, F.R.G.S.

1888. Leaflets from the Danish West Indies. p. 192.

WEST, H.

1793. Bidrag til Beskrivelse over St. Croix med en Kort Udsigt over St. Thomas, St. Jean, etc., p. 317.

HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES

The Journal has published articles on a collection of 7,235 reptiles and amphibians collected during 1931-1932 in the Puerto Rico and Virgin Island Areas. The first articles appeared in the July, 1931 number; and in each succeeding number to date. The collection is now in the Museum of the University of Michigan.