

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

A NEW PHRYNOSOMA FROM CERROS ISLAND

BY THOMAS BARBOUR

MY colleague Mr. K. P. Schmidt, of the American Museum of Natural History, has very courteously called my attention to the fact that the species of *Holbrookia* which I recently described (Proc. New Eng. Zoöl. Club, VII, 1921, p. 79) as *H. thermophila*, is probably the same as Bocourt's *H. elegans*, a species which I had not seen. I was misled by Cope's statement (Rep. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1898 [1900], p. 286) that in *elegans* the tail was shorter than head and body, whereas in reality the reverse is true. Most of my typical specimens came from Mr. W. W. Brown's collection made during the John E. Thayer expedition to Lower California. Again I am describing a novelty from Mr. Brown's material. This time my notice has been brought to it by Mr. Schmidt himself, and for this reason I gladly dedicate it to him, with the sincere hope that the name may not find a prompt abiding place in the limbo of synonymy as did its predecessor.

Phrynosoma schmidti sp. nov.

Type, M.C.Z. no. 15,142, from Cerros Island, Lower California, Mexico, collected by Mr. W. W. Brown. There are three paratypes having the same data.

This species is clearly a derivative from the *Phrynosoma blainvillii* stock of the mainland, and it is nearest to that form. It

differs conspicuously in having much smaller and much more rugose frontal scales; in having the head spines directed backward along the shoulders, not upward at all; in having the temporal regions covered with small rugose scales, instead of larger scales which are almost smooth. The groups of enlarged gular scales are very different. In *blainvillii* the outer row of each of the enlarged group of four rows is but slightly greater in size than the third, while the second and first, or mediad rows, diminish in size each in similar slight degree. In *schmidti*, however, all the enlarged rows are smaller, the fourth or outer row, however, being very much larger than the other three rows which are more nearly the same size. In *schmidti* the ventrals are smaller, averaging about 55 across the belly, while in *blainvillii* they number usually 40 or 41.

The most conspicuous difference, however, is by no means easy of exposition. In the mainland horned-toad the large postorbital spine is connected with its fellow of the opposite side by a distinct row of enlarged, slightly spinose, scales; between these and the row formed by the large posterior temporal and occipital spines is an area occupied medially by three large, rather spinose scales and a small spine which projects backward between the occipitals. In the island form the postorbital spines are obsolete; the intermediate region between the two blunted postorbital spines is composed of rather small, quite irregular, rugose scales; so also is the region just anterior to the great head spines. The latter is covered with a number of small, irregular, corrugated scales, although there is a short spine, more triangular than in *blainvillii*, between the occipitals.

The squamation of the body and limbs offers no conspicuous diagnostic characters. The color, however, differs constantly. In Schmidt's horned-toad the dark nuchal patches are much less extensive than in the form named for Blainville, while the general dorsal coloration is apparently darker, the blackish cross-bars being very narrow and inconspicuous, whereas in the mainland species they are invariably broad and conspicuous.

Sept. 7]
1921]

It is important to point out that this new type shows no close relationship with the rare form collected by Lyman Belding, also on Cerros Island, and named by Stejneger *P. cerroense*. (N. Amer. Fauna, 7, 1893, p. 187).

I have adopted this rather informal method of description for the reason that authentic examples of *Phrynosoma blainvillii* Gray are to be found in every museum, while in comparing the stereotyped formal descriptions of horned-toads it is very easy to miss the crucial characters in species at first sight as similar yet really as fundamentally distinct as these.



Barbour, Thomas. 1921. "A new Phrynosoma from Cerros Island." *Proceedings of the New England Zoo*

logical Club 7, 113–115. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.12097>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/42085>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.12097>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/12097>

Holding Institution

American Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.