

with numerous small granules; the tympanum is circular and placed a little below the surrounding surface; the extremities are of moderate size, the anterior reach as far as the extremity of the snout; the form of the body is slender, and compressed; it is covered with scales, which vary according to their situation—in the back they are hexagonal and carinated, in the sides they are more or less circular, with indistinct carinæ, in the abdomen they are quadrangular, and strongly carinated; the tail is more than twice the length of the body, it is covered with carinated scales.

Colour.—The head and upper parts of body are of a brownish chocolate colour, variegated with spots of green and yellow; tail chocolate colour; under surface of chin, throat, abdomen and extremities, straw colour, with numerous dark coloured spots.

Dimensions.

| | | | | | <i>Inches.</i> |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Length of head, | - | - | - | - | $1\frac{1}{8}$ |
| Greatest breadth, | - | - | - | - | $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Length of body, | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Length of tail, | - | - | - | - | $11\frac{1}{4}$ |

The specimens above described were found in the Republic of Columbia, within two hundred miles of Caraccas. As far as I have been able to ascertain they are new, with the exception of the *Coluber atratus*, and the *Trigonocephalus Colombiensis*, both of which are somewhat doubtful; the latter resembles very much the plate of the *lanceolatus*, as given in the *Regne Animal* of Cuvier, except that the triangular spots upon the sides meet upon the back, whereas, in our specimens—of which there were two—they are distinct. It differs from it also, as above stated, in the number of the abdominal and sub-caudal plates. Among them was a specimen of the *Ampleistana fuliginosa*. They were all preserved in spirits.

Descriptions of New Species of African Reptiles.

By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

CALOTES versicolor.

Description.—Head pyramido-quadrangular, longer by one-third in the antero-posterior direction than it is broad posteriorly; its upper surface is covered with polygonal scales of nearly uniform size, carinated for the most part; occipital scale large, hexagonal; the region in front of the eyes is convex; in its centre are two scales strongly carinated; the posterior or superior one is pentagonal; the inferior, which is the longest, is quadrilateral; supra-orbital regions very convex, leaving a marked depression between them; nostrils large, situated near the posterior margin of a large triangular and strongly carinated scale; rostral plate of moderate size, hexagonal, smaller than upon the chin, which is triangulo-pentagonal; imme-

diately behind it are six or seven small imbricated and carinated scales; there are eighteen or twenty oblong quadrilateral labial plates in each jaw; eyes of moderate size, lids covered with numerous small and whitish granules, which are smooth; auditory foramen large; the tympanum is situated at some distance within its orifice, which presents upon its superior and lateral margins a series of small and pointed spires; a row of pointed spires is observed behind the ear, commencing at the angle of the lower jaw, and extending a short distance upon the sides of the neck; besides this row, which is well defined, there are several smaller rows and clusters of spires upon the sides of the neck and posterior parts of the occiput; the tongue is triangular, slightly bifid in front, deeply notched behind—it is covered with numerous pointed papillæ posteriorly, smooth in front; there are three incisors and two canine teeth in the upper jaw; these are separated from each other by a wide interval; in the lower jaw there are two small incisors, having on each side two canine teeth placed obliquely; there are seventeen teeth on each side of the lower and as many in the upper jaw; there are two folds under the neck, the anterior is much larger than the posterior, and represents a V in its middle, there is also a fold upon its side; upon the back of the neck is a small crest, extending from the occiput as far as the shoulders; the posterior part of the head is covered with numerous hexagonal imbricated and carinated scales of nearly equal size; neck, body, and upper surface of extremities and tail covered with quadrangular, imbricated, and strongly carinated scales; the carinæ extend the whole length of the scale, each terminating in a sharp point; the points of those upon the neck and occiput are directed forwards; those upon the body and extremities are directed backwards; the scales upon the body are arranged in oblique rows, the fine edge of the scale looking upwards and backwards; scales upon the chin, abdomen, and under surface of extremities, smooth; there are no femoral pores; a series of pores in front of the anus; tail conical, large at its base, covered with imbricated and carinated scales, much larger than upon the body, each ending in a point.

Colour.—Head, chin, throat, and under surface of abdomen and extremities, of a light olive colour; body, upper surface of extremities and tail, presenting generally a tinge of green mingled with olive.

Dimensions.

| | | | <i>Inches.</i> | <i>Lines.</i> |
|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------|---------------|
| Length of head, | - | - | 1 (Fr.) | 0 |
| Length of anterior extremities, | - | - | 0 | 18 |
| Length of posterior extremities, | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| Length of neck and body, | - | - | 2 | 10 |
| Length of tail, | - | - | 17 | 4 |

Habitat.—Liberia, West Africa.

This specimen, with a number of others, were sent to me by the Rev. James Matthias, formerly Governor of Liberia; they are said to exist in

considerable numbers in the vicinity of the different settlements, and are highly prized by the natives as an article of food.

RANA Bibronii.

Description.—Head large, triangular, slightly convex above, truncated anteriorly, nostrils distinct, situated nearer the snout than the orbit; tympanum very distinct, circular, of a bronze colour, with a dark point in the centre; eyes very large, not remarkably prominent; tongue large, cordiform, notched posteriorly, having a slight indentation at its point; opening of the mouth large; teeth in the upper jaw numerous, very fine pointed, of nearly equal size; those of the palate seven or eight in number on each side, situated on a line with the anterior margin of the posterior nares; posterior nares large; eustachian foramina very distinct; body slender, extremities idem; web of the toes extending as far as the distal extremity of the antepenultimate phalanx, except of the fourth, which are much larger than the third and fifth, the latter are of nearly equal length; subarticular tubercles distinct; skin smooth, thrown into numerous longitudinal folds upon the back; no glands or pores are observed in any part of the body.

Colour.—Body above grayish, with numerous dark coloured blotches upon the head and back; a band of white extends from the tip of the snout to the extremity of the body; along the sacrum this band is very narrow, upon the body and head it is much broader, occupying in the latter situation the whole of the space between the orbits; throat, chin, and under parts of body, white.

Habitat.—Liberia, West Africa.

Dimensions.

| | | | Inches. | Lines. |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---------|-----------------|
| Length of head, | - | - | 0 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Breadth, | - | - | 0 | 7 |
| Length of body, | - | - | 1 | 4 |
| Length of anterior extremities, | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Length of posterior extremities, | - | - | 3 | 5 |

PYTHON Liberiensis.

Description.—Head large, triangular, covered anteriorly with plates, which extend to some distance behind the eyes; the rostral plate is pentagonal; there are two anterior and two posterior frontal plates; the former are elongated and quadrilateral; the latter are large and also quadrilateral; there are eight circumorbital plates, of these the two superior? are much the largest; the eyes are large and projecting; there are thirteen superior labial plates, of these the seventh on one side, and the eighth on the other are the largest; the nostril is small, and placed near the upper margin of a large triangular plate; between this and the circumorbital plate is a number of small polygonal scales; upon the upper part of the head, at its centre, between the two large supra-orbital plates, are two hexagonal plates; in front

and posterior to them, are a number of polygonal scales varying in size; the posterior are the largest; the body and tail are covered with smooth quadrangular scales.

Colour.—Head brownish above and upon the sides; a yellow band extends from the snout to the posterior extremity of the upper jaw, passing immediately over the orbit; this is continuous with one which passes across the angle of the mouth and terminates in front of the orbit; the body is brownish, variegated with yellow; these markings form a beautiful robe, but have no determinate forms; upon the sides of the body is a series of dark colored blotches margined posteriorly with yellow; under surface of abdomen and tail straw colour, clouded with numerous dark coloured spots, larger upon the tail.

Dimensions.

| | | | | <i>Feet.</i> | <i>Inches.</i> |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--------------|------------------|
| Length of head | - | - | - | 0 | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Greatest breadth, | - | - | - | 0 | $\frac{5}{8}$ |
| Length of body, | - | - | - | 1 | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Length of tail, | - | - | - | 0 | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

For the opportunity of describing this and the preceding species, I am indebted to the kindness of my friend Dr. Blanding, whose services in the illustration of the Zoology of this country and of Africa are well known. The specimens were preserved in spirits, and the colours have no doubt more or less changed. Among them was a horned snake, which appears to be the *COLUBER nasicornis* of Shaw, but his description is imperfect, and his figures incorrect; I would propose for it the name of *ARASTES nasicornis*.

The Monthly Report of the Corresponding Secretary was read and adopted.

ELECTION.

William Rich, Esq., Botanist to the U. S. Exploring Expedition, was elected a Correspondent of the Academy.



Hallowell, Edward. 1845. "Descriptions of new species of African reptiles."
Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia 2, 247–250.

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