

# COLUBER NASICORNIS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Scuta abdominalia.*

*Squamæ subcaudales.*

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 275.*

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

COLUBER fubolivaceo-ferrugineus, nigro irroratus, maculis dorsalibus pallidis nigro circumscriptis, fascia laterali undulata pallida.

*Abdomen pallide ochraceum fuliginoso-maculatum.*

*Scuta abdom: 127.*

*Squam: subcaud: circiter 32.*

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Inter species hucusque ignotas numerandus est Coluber nasicornis. E numero est dirorum istorum serpentum quorum morsus in calidioribus mundi partibus, mortem inferre solet celerem et luctuosam. Si totum fere genus serpentinum horrescunt plurimi homines in hujusmodi investigationibus minus versati, quanto majori metu putemus illos percuti, qui in vivum hunc colubrum inopinato inciderint; quem totum horrificum deformat vultus præter modum torvus et atrox. Cornua enim gerit duo magna et acuminata, (non, qualia Cerastris,) supra oculos; sed super nasum seu summum maxillæ



maxillæ superioris sita. Erecta propemodum sunt, paulum tamen retro flectuntur, extrinsecusque ab utroque latere. Non omnino cornea sunt, sed quodammodo flexibilia, forma fere triangulari sive triquetra. Longa sunt circiter dimidium uncia, et a basi utraque exstat squama dura ejusdem fere formæ cum ipsis cornubus; quo fit, ut duo quasi minora cornua exurgere videantur. Os illi, ut aliis venenatis serpentibus, telis tubulatis duobus utrinque munitur, quæ, cum maxima sint, vulnus sævissimum possunt infligere. Horum minora sunt postica. Longus est Coluber nasicornis uncias circiter triginta quinque. Coloris est fusco-flavescentis, maculis parvulis nigricantibus creberrime irrorati. Per totam dorsi longitudinem, magnis intervallis, decurrit series macularum fusco-flavescentium, majoribus nigris immerfarum; protenditurque per utraque latera a capite ad caudam fascia angusta, ochracea, acute flexuosa, cujus pars inferior seu ventri proxima, nigrior multo est quam reliquum corpus. Venter obscure ochraceus est, seu cinereo-flavus, labeculis variis nigricantibus notatus; sparguntur insuper per totum corpus huc, illuc, maculæ plurimæ diversæ magnitudinis. Cauda tenuis brevisque pro corpore. Squamæ asperæ duræque et insigniter carinatæ. Caput squamis parvis tegitur, parsque superior maculam habet permagnam fuscam, utrinque in processus acuminatos excurrentem. Latera capitis plumbeo, seu cinereo colore cinguntur. Caput ipsum latum et depressum, genæque fusco et flavicante variæ.

Captum fuisse putem hunc serpentem cum jam exuvias depositurus esset; squamæ quippe exteriores a subja-



subjacentibus facile separantur, quæ, hoc facto, lucidiores videntur; immo circa ventrem fere albescunt, maculis nigrioribus notatæ. Colubrum nasicornem accepit Dominus EDVARDUS JENKINS in oppido vulgo dicto *Charles-Town* in Carolina Australi degens, a navarcha e Guinea profecto, illoque nuperrime Museum Britannicum ditavit. Notum esse eum creditur in interiori Africa.

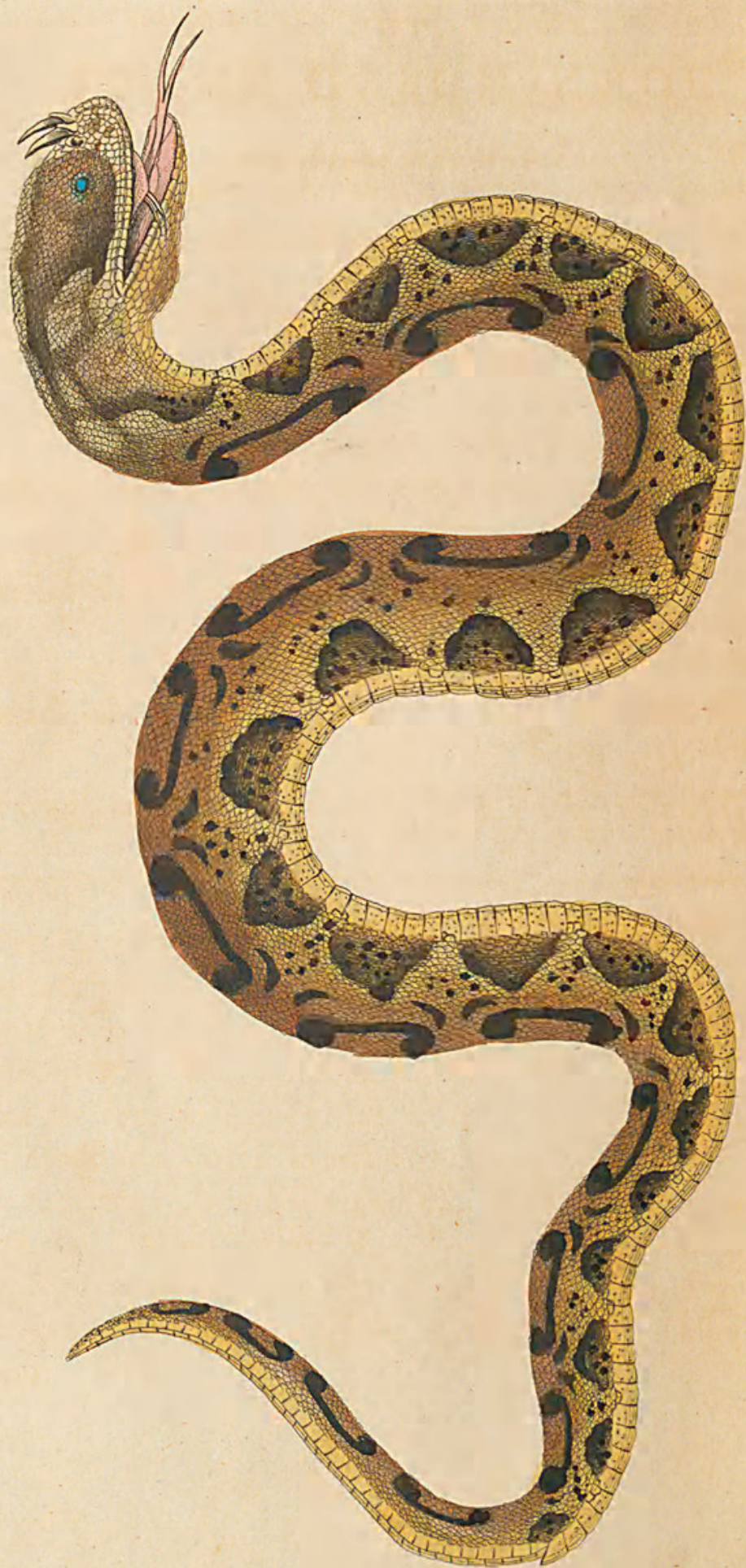














# THE HORN-NOSED SNAKE.



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

Transverse *Lamellæ* under the abdomen.

Broad alternate *Scales* under the tail.

## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

OLIVE-BROWN SNAKE, freckled with blackish, with a row of pale dorsal spots surrounded by black, and a flexuous pale fascia on the sides.

*The abdominal plates are 127. The subcaudal scales about 32.*

*The belly is of a pale olive-colour with dusky spots.*

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The snake here represented must be considered as a species hitherto unknown, and adds to the number of those malignant reptiles whose bite, in the hotter regions of the globe, proves the dreadful forerunner of a speedy and painful death. If at first glance of most of the serpent-tribe an involuntary sort of horror and alarm is so often felt by those who are unused to the examination of these animals, how much greater dread must the unexpected view of the species here exhibited be supposed to inflict? when to the general form of the creature



ture is superadded the peculiar fierceness and forbidding torvity with which nature has marked its countenance; distinguished by the very uncommon appearance of two large and sharp-pointed horns, situated, (not as in the Ceraistes, above the eyes,) but on the top of the nose, or anterior part of the upper jaw. They stand nearly upright, but incline slightly backwards and a little outwards on each side, and are of a substance not absolutely horny, but in some degree flexible. Their shape is somewhat triangular or three-sided. They are about half an inch in length, and at the fore-part of the base of each stands an upright strong scale, of nearly the same shape with the horn itself, and thus giving the appearance of a much smaller pair of horns. The mouth is furnished with extremely large and long fangs or tubular teeth, situated as in other poisonous serpents, and capable of inflicting the most severe wounds: two of these fangs appear on each side of the mouth, of which the hinder pair are smaller than the others. The length of this animal is about thirty-five inches. Its colour is a yellowish olive-brown, very thickly sprinkled all over with minute blackish specks. Along the whole length of the back is placed, at considerable distances, a series of yellowish-brown spots or marks, each of which is imbedded in a patch of black; and on each side the body, from head to tail, runs an acutely flexuous or zig-zag line or narrow band, of an ochre-colour. This band is bounded beneath by a much deeper or blacker shade than on the rest of the body. The belly is of a dull ochre-colour or cinereous yellow, freckled with spots and  
markings



markings of blackish. Besides these there is a number of black spots of different sizes here and there dispersed over the whole snake. The tail is somewhat thin and short in proportion to the body. The scales of this snake are harsh and stiff, and are very strongly carinated. The head is covered with small scales, and is on its upper part marked by a very large longitudinal patch of brown, running out into pointed processes at the sides, and bounded by a space of dull lead-colour or cinereous. The shape of the head is broad and flattened: the cheeks are varied with blackish and yellow. It seems to have been taken at a period not far distant from that of casting its skin; as the exterior scales separate easily from the subjacent ones, which then appear of a clearer and lighter colour than before, and the yellowish variegations on the sides and belly approach to a whitish colour, with darkish spots and marks. This snake is supposed to be a native of the interior parts of Africa, and was obtained from the master of a Guinea vessel by the Rev. EDWARD JENKINS of Charles-Town, South Carolina, by whom it was lately presented to the British Museum.





Shaw, George. 1792. "The Horn-Nosed Snake, *Coluber nasicornis* [Pl. 94]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 3(XXXI), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304514>.

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