

COLUBER RUSSELLII.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Scuta abdominalia.

Squamæ subcaudales.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 275.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

COLUBER fusco-flavescens, maculis dorsalibus ovato-acuminatis nigricantibus albo marginatis, lateralibus minoribus ovatis.

Scuta abdominalia 168. *Squamæ subcaudales* 59.

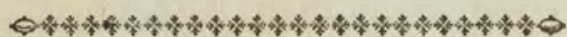
Longus est quasi quatuor pedes serpens quem describere in animo est. Capitis largiusculi pars superior squamis parvulis contegitur. Nasus obtusus. Rictus oris amplius. Tela magna, et (quod variis serpentibus venenatis contingit), duplicia; minus nempe in utraque maxilla adjacet majori. Color eleganter fusco-flavescit, ducta per totam dorfi longitudinem macularum fuscæ, rhombiformium, seu potius ovatarum serie continua, quarum medium pallet, margines albescent; quæque aliquibus in locis confluunt, ut cernere est in tabula. Utrinque in lateralibus sitæ sunt maculæ ovatæ, fuscæ, minores iis quæ

quæ in tergo sunt; et præterea transversim sparguntur aliæ vel his minores. Corpus inferius albet, scutorum seu lamellarum multarum marginibus notas aliquot fuscas habentibus.

Speciem hanc primus descripsit Dominus Ruffellius, libri auctor de Serpentibus Indicis, quique specimine quod depinximus Museum Britannicum ditavit. Narrat Ruffellius in India non rarius reperiri hunc serpentem quam ipse *Coluber Naja*; eique vix et ne vix cedere telo venenato: suis enim experimentis probavit vir doctus, horæ momento post morsum tricies et sex elapso, interiisse pullos gallinaceos; ipsum autem canem, exacto fere semihoræ spatio.



THE
RUSSELIAN SNAKE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Transverse *Lamellæ* under the abdomen.
Broad alternate *Scales* under the tail.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Brownish-yellow SNAKE, with acutely-ovate
blackish dorsal spots edged with white, and
smaller ovate lateral ones:

Abdominal lamellæ 168. *Subcaudal scales* 59.

Katuka Rekula Poda.

Russel's Indian Serpents. p. 10. pl. 7.

The length of this remarkable snake is about four feet: the head is rather large, and covered on its upper part with small scales: the snout obtuse: the mouth wide: the fangs large, and, (as in several other poisonous serpents), double; a smaller fang being situated close to the larger one on each side. The color of the animal is an elegant pale yellowish brown, marked throughout the whole length of the back with a continued chain or series of large rhomboid, or rather oval spots of deep brown, with paler

ler middles, and narrow white edges : in some parts these spots are nearly confluent, as shewn in the figure : on each side of the body is a row of brown oval spots, smaller than those on the back ; and besides these a few still smaller transverse marks are scattered here and there on the sides : the under part of the body is white, with a few dusky spots.

This species appears to have been first described by Dr. Patrick Ruffel, who presented the elegant specimen here figured to the British Museum. Dr. Ruffel, in his work on Indian Serpents, informs us that it is scarce less common in India than the Coluber Naja or Cobra de Capello ; and that its poison is nearly as deleterious. Its bite, according to Dr. Ruffel's experiments, proved fatal to chickens in thirty-six seconds, and to a dog in twenty-six minutes.



Shaw, George. 1797. "The Russelian Snake, Coluber russelii [Pl. 291]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 8(XCIV), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310834>.

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