

No. XVI.—INCUBATION OF A BROOD OF *ZAMENIS MUCOSUS*.

About 7 a. m. on the 9th of December, 1899, we received a clutch of thirteen eggs (two already hatched) of *Zamenis mucosus*. We placed the eggs in a prune bottle, so that the hatching process might be minutely observed.

During the course of the day (December 9th) four more eggs hatched, and some two or three others showed cracks at one pole. The remainder hatched on the 10th December, and it would appear that daylight provided a necessary stimulus to their activity, since no egg was hatched between 5 p.m. on the 9th and 7-30 a.m. on the 10th. Immediately after an egg was cracked, air bubbles were observed to escape, and the rostral of the young snake presented, but the creature appeared to be in no hurry to emerge, remaining in this position sometimes for a quarter of an hour. In from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour the head and neck were protruded, and then some gradually worked their way out, while others withdrew for a time wholly into their prison.

The time occupied in emerging thus varied, the quickest exit took two hours, and the longest eight hours. One egg, sound at 3 p.m. on the 9th, was observed cracked at one pole at 3-25 p.m., the head and two or three inches of the snake was clear at 4-30 p.m., but at 5-30 p.m. the hatchling had withdrawn, and did not make its exit until 7-30 a. m. on the morning of the 10th.

The eggs were pure glossy enamel white, and were cemented into a cluster, the adhesive points being inconstant in situation (either lateral or polar).

The length varied from  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " to  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "; the breadth from 1" to  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ".

The openings were stellate or linear, were in a sub-polar situation, and varied in the former shape in size from  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and in the latter were about  $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Unlike the eggs of most birds, the two poles were alike, being domed to an equal width and shape.

The young were very lively after birth, and prettily marked, and when three or four had collected were removed and put into spirit. These were individually examined later, and the departures they exhibited from Boulanger's description, with other remarks may be of interest.

Length— $14\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $15\frac{1}{4}$ ".

The Temporals—In one specimen were 2+1. (R. & L.)

The Labials—In one specimen 9, (5 and 6 touching the eye). (R. & L.)

The Ant. Chins—In one case on one side came into contact with six lower labials.

Colour—Bluish or greenish-olive, some scales edged whitish, others darkish; the former arranged in such a way as to form fairly clear light transverse bands or semi-bands.

Each band is formed by a limb thrown upwards from the belly; these limbs usually meet their fellows to form complete bands, but sometimes fail to meet and then end in bulbous extremities on the vertebral region.



The bands are thinner than the intervals, and are conspicuous anteriorly, but less so posteriorly where they become dirty yellowish, sometimes disappearing as such altogether.

Belly uniform dirty white.

The pigmented margins of labials, chin, and throat shields and streaks on ventrals are much less pronounced than in adult specimens.

We also noted that in all the specimens examined, in which we searched for it (4) the umbilical fissure was patent at one spot. A bristle was thrust into the fissure, and the specimen dissected. This fissure implicated usually two ventrals (rarely three), and from 21 to 24 perfect ventrals intervened between it and the anal scale.

We have received since this, on 2nd January, 1900, and 6th January, 1900, two other small *Zamenis mucosus* apparently recently hatched, since they both have very evident umbilical scars, and measure  $16\frac{1}{2}$ " and  $16\frac{3}{4}$ "; so it would appear that this is the regular season of incubation for this species here.

GEO. H. EVANS, CAPT., A. V. D.

RANGOON, 30th January, 1900.

F. WALL, CAPT., I. M. S.

#### NO. XVII.—OCCURRENCE OF *PYTHON MOLURUS* IN BURMA.

On reference to Boulanger's work we observe that Burma is not mentioned as a habitat of the *Python molurus*, and since that author remarks that the snake is rare in the Malay Peninsula, we venture to record that we have seen at least four specimens obtained in this Province, and we would further add that on questioning some Burmans, living in a jungle tract in the Pegu district, on the subject of Pythons, we elicited the following information, viz., that they recognized two species, one which they called Sa-ba-ohn, was described as having six labial pits. Having a fresh specimen of *P. molurus* before us, we enquired how many pits they would count on this snake, which they described as Sa-ba-ohn, they counted six, inclusive of the rostral pits. The other Python is known as the Sa-ba-gyi, which they recognize as having nine or ten pits, counted in a similar manner (probably *P. reticulatus*). They asserted that, as far as their particular locality was concerned, the *P. molurus* was the more common of the two. Their method of recognizing the two varieties at least points to their being moderately observant, hence we were surprised to find no mention of Burma as a habitat in the above-named work. Another thing which suggests to us that it is not so rare is, that at the present time there are 3 caged Pythons in the gardens of the Agri-Horticultural Society, all specimens of *P. molurus*, and obtained in this Province, and Mr. Noble, the Custodian, tells me that whereas *P. molurus* is commonly brought to him, he can only remember 6 specimens of *P. reticulatus* during his 18 years tenure of this appointment.



Evans, George H. and Wall, Frank. 1900. "Incubation of a brood of *Zamenis mucosus*." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 13, 189–190.

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