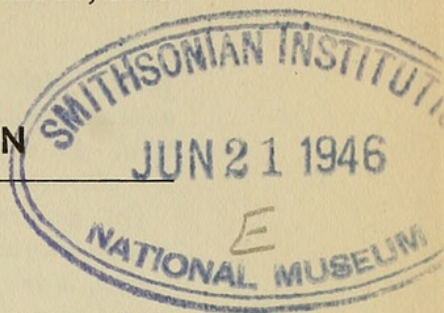


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW WORM-LIZARD (*ANCYLOCRANIUM BARKERI*)  
FROM TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

By ARTHUR LOVERIDGE

Among some reptiles recently presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy by Mr. R. de la B. Barker, is an extraordinary amphisbaenid of a genus hitherto unknown from south of the equator. Not only is it the first member of the peculiar genus to be found in Tanganyika Territory, but its nearest relative occurs nearly a thousand miles to the north at Caitoi in Somalia. The new species was taken by Mr. Barker near the Mbemkuru River (*circa* 9°30' S., 39°40' E.) which empties into Mzungu Bay between the headlands of Ras Mbemkuru and Ras Mawedi on the coast between Kilwa and Lindi, though rather nearer to the latter.

Except for the absence of a well-marked circular fold separating head and body, this new species is referable to the Genus *Baikia* as recently (1941, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 87, p. 368) redefined. Two species were referred to Gray's *Baikia* until Parker (1942, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 91, p. 57, fig. 7a) proposed *Ancylocranium* for *somalica* (Scortecci, 1930). The East African lizard was separated from the western *africana* Gray on account of its possessing a bony crest formed by the compressed anterior elements of the skull, and because the extra-columella showed an anterior dilation. Parker's figure of the crested *somalicum* was based on a cleaned skull; that of *africana* on an x-ray of the holotype, as no second specimen has been taken since the discovery of *africana* sixty-five years ago.

That I might ascertain to which of the two genera the new species *barkeri* should be assigned, half-a-dozen x-ray photographs of it were taken through the courtesy of Dr. M. C. Sosman of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital of Boston. In none of these photographs is the extra-columella sufficient distinct for me to say definitely that it is, or is not, dilated anteriorly. In the matter of the anterior crest, however, three of the photographs undoubtedly conform to Parker's figure of *Ancylocranium*. The other three resemble Parker's figure of *Baikia* in lacking a crest. As all six x-rays are of the same lizard the apparent difference must be due to some slight variation in position at the time the photographs were taken. As it seemed possible that the same might have oc-



Loveridge, Arthur. 1946. "A new worm-lizard (*Ancylocranium barkeri*) from Tanganyika Territory." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 59, 73–73.

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