

XIII.—*On a Collection of Batrachians and Reptiles from the Interior of Cape Colony.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

[Plates XVI. & XVII.]

AMONG the zoological collections made by Messrs. E. C. H. Seimund and C. H. B. Grant at Deelfontein, and presented to the British Museum by Colonel Sloggett, the series of batrachians and reptiles is of considerable interest. Deelfontein, a camp in the Richmond district, 32 miles below De Aar and 25 east of Victoria West, is situated in the middle of a barren region extending for miles in every direction, with nothing but brushwood and thorns, and very little water except immediately after rains. There are, however, a few springs or wells, in which frogs and toads are found. Under such conditions a list of the batrachians and reptiles cannot be expected to be a long one, and it is a surprise to me that two of them should prove to be undescribed.

BATRACHIA.

ECAUDATA.

1. *Xenopus laevis*, Daud.

2. *Bufo Granti*, sp. n. (Pl. XVI.)

Crown without bony ridges; snout short, blunt; inter-orbital space as broad as or a little narrower than the upper eyelid; tympanum very distinct, one half to three fourths the diameter of the eye. Fingers short, blunt, first not extending or extending but little beyond second; toes short, webbed at the base; subarticular tubercles of toes simple, sometimes with a tendency to division; two moderate metatarsal tubercles; a more or less distinct tarsal fold. The hind limb stretched forwards does not extend or extends but little beyond the end of the snout; the tarsal-metatarsal articulation reaches the axil, the shoulder, or between the shoulder and the tympanum. Upper parts with large, more or less prominent, flat warts; parotoids moderately prominent, elliptic or reniform, rather variable in length, parallel or diverging posteriorly; belly granular, at least posteriorly. Greyish or pale olive above, with large brown or dark olive spots or marblings much as in *B. viridis*. Male with an internal subgular vocal sac.



♂. From snout to vent 75 millim. ; hind limb 80.

♀. " " " " 90 " " " 85.

Numerous specimens were obtained by Mr. Grant in December on the sides at the bottom of a well at Deelfontein, where they could be seen in the daytime squatting in or near the water ; others were taken on the veldt in March, April, and December, and in camp in November.

In its shorter hind limbs this species differs from *B. regularis* much as our *B. calamita* differs from *B. viridis* ; it also has the inner finger shorter as compared with the second.

3. *Rana angolensis*, Bocage.

4. *Rana Delalandii*, D. & B.

## REPTILIA.

### CHELONIA.

#### 1. *Testudo Seimundi*, sp. n. (Pl. XVII.)

Shell very convex, twice as long as deep, the dorsal shields somewhat swollen and separated from one another by deep furrows ; lateral marginals divided by a very deep groove ; shields strongly striated concentrically ; six vertebral shields, fifth smallest, all except the first much broader than long ; 12 marginals on each side ; nuchal small, longer than broad ; supracaudal single, strongly incurved. Plastron large, flat (male), the gular shields forming a narrow rounded projection in front, the hind lobe deeply notched ; suture between the gulars longer than that between the anals ; suture between the humerals longer than that between the femorals, nearly four times as long as that between the pectorals ; axillary small, inguinal large. Head moderate, with very convex, swollen forehead and strongly hooked beak ; upper head-shields very small, with the exception of three præfrontal shields in a transverse row ; alveolar ridge of upper jaw very feeble. Anterior face of fore limb with very large bony scutes or tubercles as in *T. tentoria* ; a very large bony tubercle on the back of the thigh. Yellowish horn-colour above, with short or interrupted blackish-brown striæ radiating from the centre of each shield ; plastron similar, with mere traces of the dark radiating striæ ; soft parts yellow, head with a few dark brown specks.

Length of shell 98 millim.

A single male specimen was picked up by Mr. Seimund under a Karroo bush in veldt 3 miles east of Deelfontein, about 300 yards from a small rise or kopje.

This new tortoise is to be placed near *T. tentoria*, Bell, from which it differs in the shape of the gular extremity of



the plastron, in the longer suture between the gular shields, in the less convex carapace with deep furrows between the shields, and in the coloration.

2. *Testudo tentoria*, Bell.

3. *Homopus areolatus*, Thunb.

4. *Pelomedusa galeata*, Schœpff.

A remarkably large specimen, the shell measuring 260 millim.

#### LACERTILIA.

5. *Pachydactylus capensis*, Smith.

6. *Agama brachyura*, Blgr.

7. *Agama aculeata*, Merr.

8. *Agama atra*, Daud.

9. *Zonurus polyzonus*, Smith.

10. *Pseudocordylus microlepidotus*, Cuv.

11. *Varanus albigularis*, Daud.

12. *Nucras tessellata*, Smith.

13. *Eremias undata*, Smith.

14. *Eremias pulchella*, Gray.

15. *Mabuia trivittata*, Cuv.

16. *Mabuia varia*, Ptrs.

17. *Mabuia sulcata*, Ptrs.

#### OPHIDIA.

18. *Trimerorhinus rhombeatus*, L.

19. *Psammophis notostictus*, Ptrs.

20. *Aspidelaps lubricus*, L.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

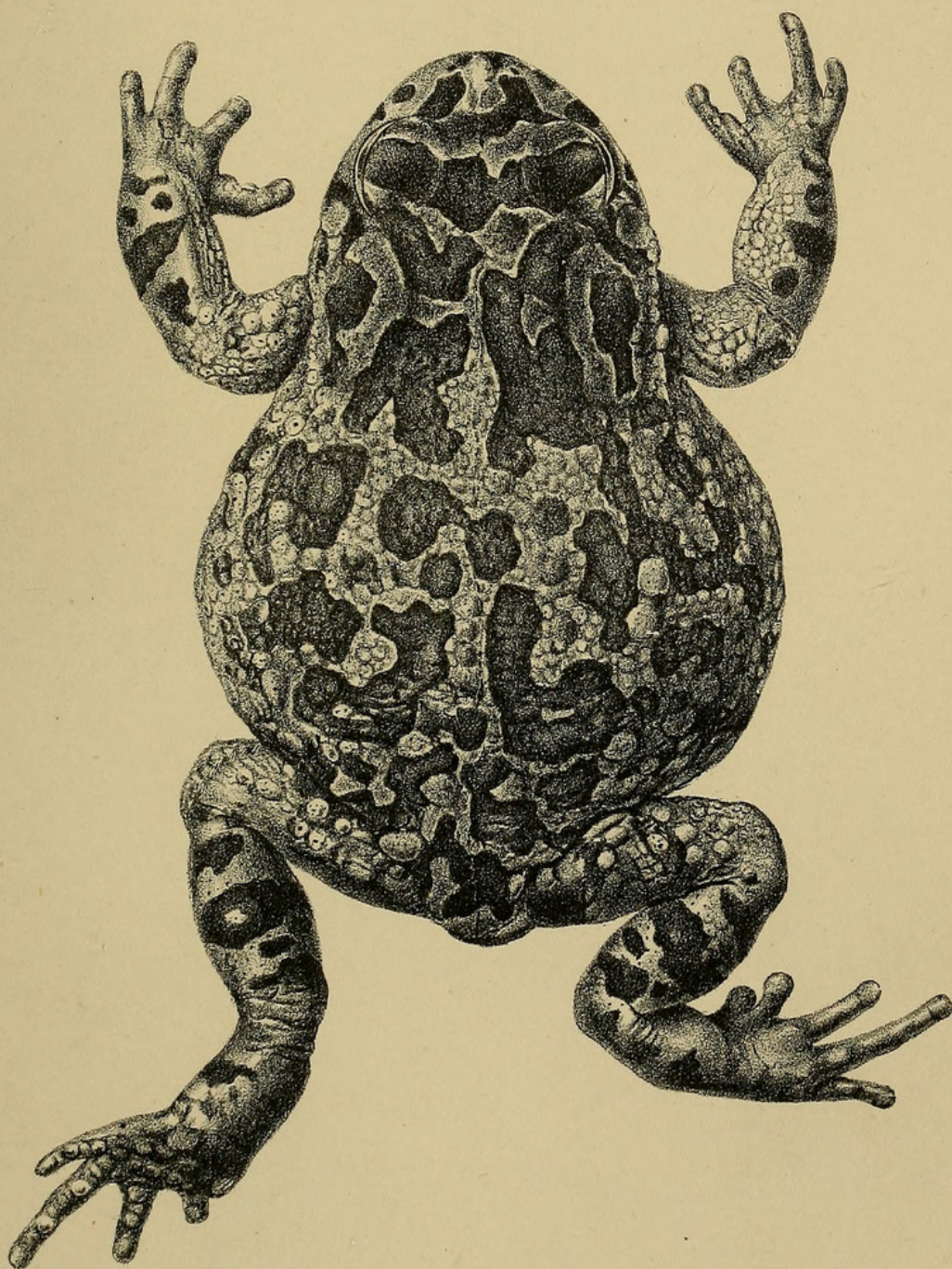
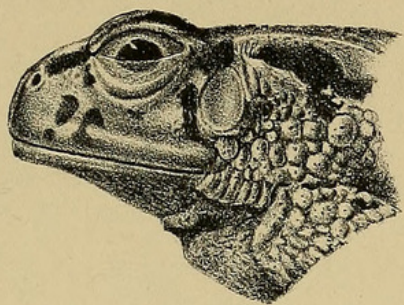
##### PLATE XVI.

*Bufo Granti*, female, natural size, with side view of head.

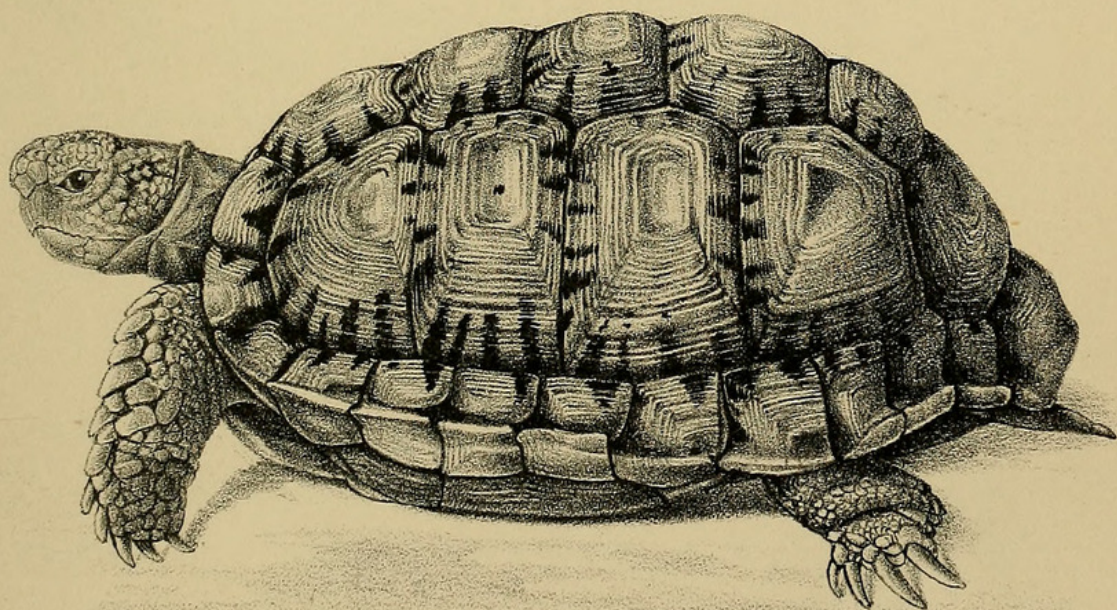
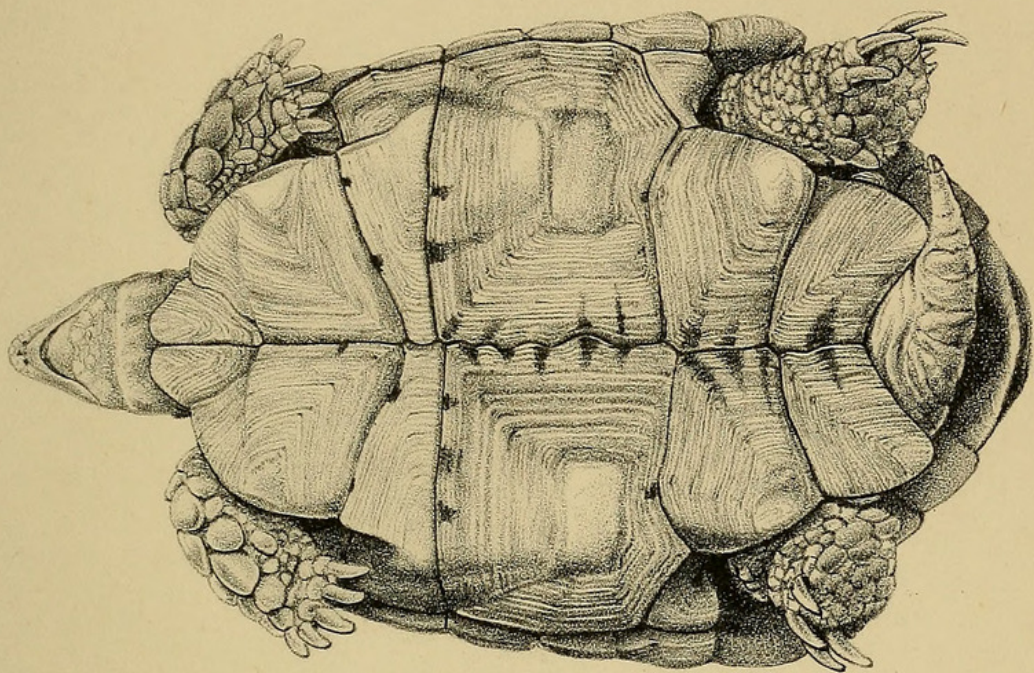
##### PLATE XVII.

*Testudo Seimundi*, natural size, side view and lower view.











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