

46. A List of the Snakes of North-East Africa, from the Tropic to the Soudan and Somaliland, including Socotra. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S., F.Z.S.*

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With this list the Ophidian fauna of East and Central Africa is completed, only two divisions remaining to be dealt with, viz., West Africa north of the Congo, and North Africa.

Synopsis of the Families.

- I. Worm-like, with small inferior mouth; eyes hidden or visible under the head-shields, and body covered with uniform imbricate scales above and beneath.
- 22 or more scales round middle of body; ocular not bordering the mouth; tail not or but little longer than broad TYPHLOPIDÆ.
- 14 scales round middle of body GLAUCONIIDÆ.
- II. Mouth large, eyes exposed; body with enlarged shields beneath (except in the marine genus *Hydrus*).
- Ventral shields much narrower than the body; supraocular, if distinct, broken up into two or more shields; scales on anterior part of body smooth BOIDÆ.
- Ventral shields at least nearly as broad as the body; supraocular single; poison-fangs, if present, not in a very large sheath ... COLUBRIDÆ.
- Ventral shields at least nearly as broad as the body, or upper surface of head covered with small scales; poison-fangs in a very large sheath below the eye VIPERIDÆ.

Family TYPHLOPIDÆ.

A single genus.

1. TYPHLOPS.

Schneid. Hist. Amph. ii. p. 339; Bouleng. Cat. Sn. i. p. 7.

Synopsis of the Species.

- I. Snout rounded or with obtusely angular horizontal edge.
- A. Rostral not more than one-third width of head; eyes distinct.
- Snout rounded; 24 scales round middle of body, the diameter of which is 37 to 50 times in total length *T. socotranus*.
- Snout much depressed; 22 scales round middle of body, the diameter of which is 20 to 30 times in total length *T. cuneirostris*.
- B. Rostral very broad.
- Rostral half width of head; 30 scales round middle of body, the diameter of which is 30 to 40 times in total length *T. blanfordii*.
- Rostral more than half width of head; 26 to 30 scales round middle of body, the diameter of which is 24 to 30 times in total length *T. punctatus*.

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