

15. New Reptiles from Tanganyika Territory.

By ARTHUR LOVERIDGE, C.M.Z.S.

[Received March 24, 1922 : Read April 25, 1922.]

The opisthoglyphous snake and lacertid lizard here described occurred in collections of reptiles made in East Africa during 1920.

In naming this new snake after Miss J. Procter, F.Z.S., I wish to testify to her kindness in examining the dentition of this and other specimens and in reading over the proofs. My thanks are also due to Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., for making a correction in the description of the new lizard.

GEODIPSAS PROCTERÆ, sp. n.

If included in this genus (Blgr. Cat. Snakes, iii. p. 32), to which it is closely allied, the generic description will have to be enlarged to include snakes with single as well as double subcaudals.

Dentition.—16 or 17 maxillary teeth (including the fangs). Solid teeth followed after a slight interspace by two enlarged grooved fangs. Mandibular teeth subequal.

Description.—Rostral broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals as long as broad, shorter than præfrontals; frontal once and a half as long as broad, shorter than its distance from end of snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal as long as deep; three præ- and two postoculars; temporals one plus two; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are a little shorter than the posterior. Scales in seventeen rows. Ventrals 148; anal single; subcaudals 49, single.

Coloration.—Purplish iridescent black above, slightly paler beneath. Throat white. Head brownish; labials white, with a brownish mark on the posterior border of each; an ill-defined black stripe from posterior border of eye to commissure of mouth, crossing 7th and 8th labials. A distinct black dorsal stripe on median row of scales from frontal to end of body; indistinct on tail.

Sex ♂

Length of head and body 310 mm.

„ „ tail 76 mm.

Affinities.—Very similar in all respects to *Geodipsas vauerocegeæ* Tornier, 1902, from which it differs in having 3 instead of 2 præoculars, smaller parietal shields, and single subcaudals.

Locality.—On path in thick bush-country, Uluguru Mts., 3 miles from Morogoro, T. T., at an altitude of about 3000 ft.; l. iii. 1921.

Type-specimen given to the British Museum. Only the type was collected, and though I sent a native collector to the same locality for a month for the express purpose of obtaining more specimens, he failed to get any.

NUCRAS KILOSÆ, sp. n.

Some lizards collected at Tindiga, Kilosa District, T. T., belong to an undescribed species. The following description is based on a series of seven individuals, six of which were males. These have been indicated by letters *a* to *f*, males; *g*, female:—

Description.—Head moderate; snout obtuse; nostril pierced between three shields; nasals not or but slightly swollen, lower separated from the rostral; two præfrontals; frontal feebly (*a, d*) or strongly (*b, c*) grooved; four to six supraoculars (four in *a, d*; five in *b*; six in *c*), the two middle ones being much the largest in *a*, the anterior two largest in *b, c*; interparietal at least twice as long as broad, longer than the suture between the frontoparietals; an enlarged band-like temporal shield and a curved tympanic; temporal scales granular, smooth, no auricular denticulation; lower eyelid scaly, subocular narrower below than above, bordering the lip between the fourth and fifth upper labials; two or three anterior pairs of chin-shields in contact. Gular scales gradually increasing in size towards the collar; latter slightly curved, perfectly free, formed of nine (rarely seven as in *d*) plates. Dorsal scales rhomboidal, juxtaposed, keeled, 42 to 56 across the middle of the body. Ventral plates in 6 or 8 longitudinal, and 27 to 31 transverse series. The hind-limb reaches the wrist (*b, c, d*), elbow (*e*), or axilla (*a*) in the male, and the elbow in the female type. Foot as long as, or a little longer than, the head. A single (occasionally double) series of large subtibial plates. Eleven to thirteen femoral pores (11 in ♂ *a*, ♀ *g*; 12 in ♂ *b, d*; 13 in *c*). Tail nearly (*a, e*) or more than twice (*b*) the length of head and body in male, much more than twice the length in female type; caudal scales strongly keeled except basal subcaudals, which are obtusely keeled.

Coloration in life.—♂. Upper surface of head, fore-limbs, and body nearly to hind-limbs brown. Head, limbs, and upper surface of tail a bright yet translucent red, which entirely disappears on preservation. A narrow, yellow, vertebral line commences at interparietal; it lies between a pair of dorso-lateral lines which start from the band-like temporal scale; these three lines all vanish on the base of tail; the space between these dorso-laterals and the vertebral line is dotted and marbled with black spots, which are sometimes almost absent in parts and in others confluent in black patches, or form a black border to the vertebral line. A single (sometimes double) series of yellow dots and dashes on flanks; below these a white or yellowish line commencing at commissure of mouth passes through the ear-opening and may be continuous to hind-limb, but is more frequently

broken up into a series of dashes. In the type *a* the whole of the upper surface is spotted with yellow and white (probably breeding marks); this is absent in all the others. Under surfaces china-white except distal portion of tail, which is rufous.

♀. Upper surfaces all brown and much darker than male; only one series of dots on flank. Lower surface all white; no rufous colour at all. Measurements:—

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------|------|-----------|------------------------|
| Males (a). | Head and body | 65 mm. | Tail | 127 mm. | British Museum. |
| (b). | „ | 62 mm. | „ | 128 mm. | Loveridge Coll. |
| (c). | „ | 56 mm. | „ | impaired. | „ „ |
| (d). | „ | 65 mm. | „ | „ | A. M. N. H. |
| (e). | „ | 60 mm. | „ | 116 mm. | Skull, Loveridge Coll. |
| (f). | „ | 65 mm. | „ | impaired. | Dr. Barbour Coll. |
| Female (g). | „ | 52 mm. | „ | 127 mm. | British Museum. |

Affinities.—Closely allied to *N. emini* Blgr., from which it differs in its keeled scales and different markings.

Locality.—Running on paths at Tindiga, 5 miles south of Kilosa, Morogoro District, T. T. Has since been found at Kilosa also.

Type-specimens.—♂ *a*, ♀ *g*, donated to the British Museum.

Dates.—(*a*, *g*) 19. iv. 21; (*f*) 20. vi. 21; (*b*, *c*, *d*, *e*) 19. xii. 21.

Notes.—Not uncommon but active, running on paths in hot sunshine.

Female retired into hole, and on being captured was found to have four eggs in ovary measuring 5 mm. in diameter. Stomach contents included a parasitic nematode, a field cricket well chewed but swallowed whole, limb of Hymenopterous insect, and the lizard's own sloughed ventral scutes.



Loveridge, Arthur. 1922. "New Reptiles from Tanganyika Territory."
Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 1922, 313–315.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1922.tb02143.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100598>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1922.tb02143.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/72035>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.