

Notes on the species of Ophidia and Lacertilia obtained at Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, during December 1944

Alexander Cross

Note: The second page includes a half-page report for specimens obtained in January 1945. The third page contains samples of paper used for typing reports.

OPHIDIA.

Xenopeltis unicolor. 1 ♀.

588 2.12.44 ♀ Taken in wood pile in South Lower Kitchen. Gut
contained the remains of a skink (? L. bowringii).

Macrophistodon rhodomelas. 2 immature.

The general colour of this beautiful snake is an orange brown. On the back of the neck is a broad black V with the apex pointing backwards and continuing as a black line down the whole length of the back. The lower and posterior edge of the V is broadly edged with white. Radiating forward from the black line on the back (i.e. parallel with the wings of the V) is a very fine broken herring-bone pattern in black, the "bones" occupying alternate diagonal rows of costals. The belly is whitish, but each ventral carries a black spot at either end. These spots vary in size and are occasionally missing from some of the ventrals.

581 13.12.44 immature. Taken in North Area Garden.

620 27.12.44 immature. Taken in drain at Hut 135.

Lycodon aulicus. 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

589 17.12.44 ♀ Taken in Women's Camp. Gut empty.

592 21.12.44 ♀ Taken in Carpenter's Shop, Central Area. Stomach
contained the remains of a skink (L. bowringii).

627 30.12.44 ♂ Taken in sweet potato bed near Hut 118.
Measured and released.

Holarchus purpurascens. 1 ♀.

On the back this snake is generally a dark purplish brown. On the back of the neck is a deep terra-cotta arrow-head marking which is typical of the genus. At intervals down the back are irregularly shaped dark terra-cotta markings. These are sub-lozenge-shaped with the points running down the sides to form irregular lines. The whole undersurface is coral red.

585 19.12.44 ♀ Taken in North Area Garden. Gut empty. The posterior portion of the oviduct contained two fully formed eggs, cylindrical in shape with rounded ends, white in colour, and smooth and hard in texture. They measured 32.5 x 6.5, and 32.0 x 6.5 mm.

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus. 1 ♀.

625 29.12.44 ♀ Site of capture not ascertained. Gut empty.

Psammodynastes pictus. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

576 1.12.44 ♂ Taken outside Hut 125.

590 19.12.44 ♀ Taken on Hospital Hill, Women's Camp. Gut empty.

Naja naja. 1 ♀.

582 16.12.44 ♀ Flushed from wood pile on new road, and killed near the well below Hut 118. Gut empty.

LACERTILIA.

Gehyra mutilata. 1 ♀.

577 3.12.44 ♀ Taken in Central Area Office.

Draco volans. 1 ♀.

623 28.12.44 ♀ Site of capture not ascertained.

Hut 118.
1st. January 1945.

Herewith the report for last month.

Macrophistodon rhodomelas: 620 27.12.44 immature ♀ 151.5/32/133.5//19/135/D/50p.

Lycodon aulicus: 592 21.12.44 ♀ 288/61/349//17/192/D/65p.
627 30.12.44 ♂ 377/90/467//17/204/D/64p. This gives a new high record for the ventral count.

Holarchus purpurascens: 585 19.12.44 ♀ 286/78.5/364.5//17/153/S/51p.

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus: 625 29.12.44 ♀ 862/306/1168//13/179/D/101p.

Psammodynastes pictus: I note what you say regarding the Anal shield. Without further examination I am not prepared to make any statement with regard to No. 90 (o) of 9.6.44., but I suspect an oversight on my part.

Draco volans: 623 28.12.44 ♀ 83.1/123.5/206.6/14.4/50.0/29.3/8.3/38.0/11.3/87.0 This, and D. caudolineatus, were left at the Hut for me by Shebbeare without any comments. As I have not seen him since, I don't know where they were taken.

All the other specimens have already been noted either in my note of 17th. December, or your note of 19th. December. Kindest regards for 1945 - let's hope that etc., etc..

Dr. C. A. Gibson-Hill,
Hut 40.

M. Anderson

Hut 118.
7th. January 1945.

Lygosoma bowringii: 639 4.1.45 ♀ 49.3-51.0-100.3-8.7-30.1-8.5-2.0-12.6-4.8 This skink had put its head in through a hole in the shell of a rubber seed and been trapped. It was dead when found and the shell had to be split open to obtain the skink.

Calotes cristatellus: 655 5.1.45 ♂ 113.0-361.0-474.0-30.1-61.1-58.8-18.0-96.0-33.9 Taken on bush in Orchard. Stomach contents retained but not yet examined by Pendlebury.

Draco volans: 660 6.1.45 ♀ 74.3-115.6-189.9-13.1-48.9-30.0-6.2-33.0-10.4-74.2 Taken near Hut 119. Contained three eggs measuring 12.5 x 6.5; 11.5 x 7.0; and 12.0 x 7.0 mms., white, and elliptical in shape.

? Cylindrophis rufus: 667 6.1.45 ♀ 253-6-263-21-209-D-6s. This is the snake I received from you yesterday. In C. rufus the back is plain black, whereas as you will remember the present specimen is, on the back, irregularly barred with broken transverse red bars. We are not sure that it is C. rufus, but at present can give no other name to it. On cutting it open late last night I discovered that it contained an eel measuring 175 mms (No. 668) which I am hoping Shebbeare will be able to identify. Please ascertain exactly where and how it was captured, and any other details you can.

M. Anderson

