

## **Notes on the species of *Ophidia* and *Lacertlia* obtained at Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, during February 1945**

Alexander Cross

**Note:** The third page is a note to Dr Gibson-Hill. The fourth page shows a blank medical sheet.

Notes on the species of Ophidia and Lacertilia obtained at Sime Road Internment Camp, Singapore, during February 1945.

OPHIDIA:

Cylindrophis rufus: 1 ♀.

721 1.2.45 ♀ Taken beside drain in Central garden area. This specimen has faint reddish markings across the back. The stomach contained a fresh Amphipnous sp. measuring 271.3 mms. in total length.

Xenopeltis unicolor: 1 ♀.

822 23.2.45 ♀ Taken alive in grass bank at Hut 118. Measured and liberated.

Lycodon aulicus: 1 ♀.

735 11.2.45 ♀ Taken under a board near Hut 20. Contained four eggs measuring 17 - 19 x 5.25 - 6 mms.. Stomach contained a skink (Lygosoma bowringii - No. 736) undigested and undamaged except for the absence of right fore limb and the tip of the tail.

Holarchus octolineatus: 2 ♂.

823 23.2.45 ♂ Killed by outside fatigue on Bukit Timah Golf Course. Gut empty. This specimen had an unusual subcaudal count of 3 pairs + 13 singles + 44 pairs.  
832 27.2.45 ♂ Taken near Hut 107. Gut empty.

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus: 1 ♀.

804 17.2.45 ♀ Taken near Hut 112. Gut empty.

Passerita prasina: 1 ♀.

734 10.2.45 ♀ Taken among beans in a private garden near Hut 125. Gut empty. Anterior portion of oviduct contained four partly formed eggs, the largest measuring 38.0 x 13.0 mms..

Trimeresurus wagleri: 1 immature ♂.

809 19.2.45 ♂ Taken by outside fatigue in McRitchie Reservoir Forest Reserve. The gut contained the hind legs and feet of a tree frog; the remainder had been completely digested and no identification was possible. This is a new species for the camp and the present specimen was in the immature colouring, which is a bright bluish green on the back paling to almost white on the belly. From the pit, running backwards through the eye is a brick-red streak which is narrowly edged above with white. Along the body are a number of lateral spots of brick-red and white. These spots are somewhat irregular in shape and very variable in the arrangement of the red and white components. The red portion may be anterior, posterior, superior or inferior to the white portion, but in most cases the red and white portions are equal in area.



LACERTILIA:

Mabuia multifasciata: 1 ♀.

811 20.2.45 ♀ Taken in crack in bank of Green Well, below Hut# 116. Gut empty. Contained five foeti, well developed, and measuring in total length, 70.1, 71.2, 73.0, 73.1, and 74.0 mms..

Lygosoma bowringii: 1 ♂.

736 11.2.45 ♂ Found in stomach of Lycodon sulicus (No.735). Stomach contained the remains of a cricket (Gryllus sp.).

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Sime Road Internment~~l~~ Camp,  
Singapore.  
8th. March 1945.

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ADDENDUM: (Omitted from Report on November 1944).

Xenopeltis unicolor: 1 ♀.

820 23.11.44 ♀ Taken under heap of dead grass near Hut 40. Contained the remains of a skink.

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*Alexander S. Cooper*  
8.3.45



Hut 118. 9th. March 1945.

Herewith the February Report. The Xenopeltis unicolor of 23311.44 becomes No.820 and is given in the Addendum. The immature Trimeresurus wagleri is in pickle.

Herewith some measurements you have not had:

822	23.2.45	<u>Xenopeltis unicolor</u>	♀	452-56-508=15-178-D-(1s+29p.)
823	23.2.45	<u>Holarchus octolineatus</u>	♂	406-112-518=17-167-S- <del>Ksp+13s</del> (3p + 13s + 44p)
832	27.2.45	- do -	♂	403-114-517=17-165-51p.
858	1.3.45	<u>Mabuia multifasciata</u>	♀	102.4-138.8-241.2-21.1-63.0- 31.1-9.6-45.0-17.8
860	6.3.45	<u>Lycodon aulicus</u>	♀	346-81-427=17-187-D-66p.
861	6.3.45	<u>Draco volans</u>	immature ♂	32.4-48.2-80.6-6.0-18.0- 12.9-2.9-16.1-6.0-25.8

I think it is H.C. Robinson in "Birds of the Malay Peninsula" Vol. i. 1927, who says that the Barred Ground Dove (Geopelia striata) seldom if ever perches on a tree. I have not the work in question with me to check it. Yesterday I saw one of these doves fly into a papaya tree and perch on the stem of one of the leaves for some four or five minutes. It then flew to a pile of sticks on one of which it perched for about thirty seconds before flying down to the ground and commence feeding. The dove flew into the tree in quite a natural manner, and did not appear to have been startled and entered the tree on a sudden reflex. While on the tree it was apparently quite at its ease.

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

*Alexander Gibson*



