A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE FAMILY PYGOPODIDAE.

By

J. R. KINGHORN, C.M.Z.S.

(Figures 1-19.)

Family PYGOPODIDAE, Boulenger.

Scincoidiens part, Cuvier, Regne Anim., ii, 1817, p. 61.
Gymnophthalmoidea part, Fitzinger, Classif. Rept., 1826, p. 11.
Gymnophthalmi part, Weigman, Herp. Mex., 1834, p. 11.
Pygodidae Gray, Cat. Liz., 1845, p. 67.
Aprasiaeidae Gray, loc. cit., p. 68.
Lialisidae Gray, loc. cit., p. 69.

Definition of family characters.—Premaxillary single, narrow, and much produced posteriorly between the nasals; in the genus Lialis quite as much as in the Varanidae. Nasals distinct; frontal single; pre- and post frontals in contact separating the frontal from the orbit (absent in Ophiopsea); parietals paired except in Lialis and Ophiopsea. Jugal rudimentary; supraorbital bones absent; postorbital or postfronto-squamosal arch absent. The pterygoids are widely separated and toothless. The mandible contains only four bones the angular, supra-angular and articular having coalesced. Dentition pleurodont, the teeth small closely set, more or less acute and recurved posteriorly. In Lialis they are swollen at the base: Aprasia has few teeth, Ophiopsea has them in the lower jaw only, while in the remaining genera they are numerous and of the usual pleurodont type. Skin of head free from cranial ossification.

Body serpentine, destitute of functional limbs, the forelimbs being entirely absent, while the hind limbs are visible externally as scaly flaps which, are most highly developed in the genus Pygopus. When the skin of the hind limb of Pygopus is removed the foot, with five ossified bones, may be plainly seen, especially in the males; the ischium appears as a small spur on each side behind the anal cleft. The sternal apparatus is rather rudimentary. Tail long, fragile. Eye small with elliptico-vertical or subelliptic pupil, and not protected by moveable lids. Ear exposed or concealed beneath the scales. Tongue elongate, fleshy, extensible, papillose and more or less feebly nicked at the tip. Body