

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE FAMILY PYGOPODIDAE.

BY

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(Figures 1-19.)

Family PYGOPODIDAE, Boulenger.

- Scincoidiens* part, Cuvier, Regne Anim., ii, 1817, p. 61.
Gymnophthalmoidea part, Fitzinger, Classif. Rept., 1826, p. 11.
Autachoglossae part, Wagler, Syst. Amph., 1830, p. 130.
Gymnophthalmi part, Weigman, Herp. Mex., 1834, p. 11.
Scincoidiens part, Dumeril and Bibron, Erp. Gen., v, 1839, p. 511.
Pygopidae Gray, Cat. Liz., 1845, p. 67.
Aprasiidae Gray, loc. cit., p. 68.
Lialisidae Gray, loc. cit., p. 69.
Pygopodidae Boulenger, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (5), xiv, 1884, p. 119.
Ophidiosepsidae Jensen, Vidensk. Meddel., iii, 1900, p. 317.
Pygopodidae Werner, K. Pr. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, Das Tierreich, Lief. 33, 1912, p. 15.

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 *Ophioseps*); parietals paired except in *Lialis* and *Ophioseps*. 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, *Ophioseps* 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 serpentiform, 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