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HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES.

No. 3.*

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(Figures 1-2.)

The following paper contains the description of a new species of snake from the Roper River, North Australia, and a new gecko from Boggabri on the northern tablelands of New South Wales.

Rhynchoelaps roperi, sp. nov.

Snout prominent, shovel-shaped, obtusely pointed from above, lateral edges very sharp. Rostral broader than deep, its upper portion forming an acute angle posteriorly and wedged between the internasals; it is longer than its distance from the frontal. Internasals and prefrontals obliquely disposed and broader than deep, the internasals being smaller than the prefrontals. Frontal about as broad as deep, much shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, not as

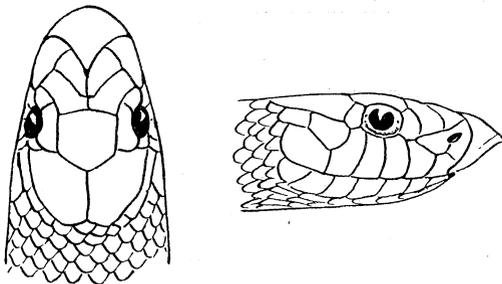


Figure 1.—*Rhynchoelaps smithii*, sp. nov.

long as the parietal, but longer than the parietal suture and at least three times as wide as the supraoculars. Nasal shield deeply grooved below the nostril, almost semidivided. There are six upper labials on the right side of the mouth and five on the left, where there is also a small one between the upper portion of the third and fourth. The third, fourth, and fifth labials enter the orbital ring. There are seven lower labials, and two anterior and three posterior chin shields, the anterior being larger than the posterior. There is one preocular and one postocular shield. Temporals 1 + 1. Ventrals 162; subcaudals 19 pairs; scales in 15 rows; anal single. Total length 295 mm., tail 25 mm.

* For No. 2 see RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, xviii, No. 3, 1931, pp. 85-91.

Colour (in spirits).—Straw-coloured above, with a dark brown blotch on the head and thirty-nine brown bars across the body and tail. The under parts are whitish.

Locality.—Roper River, North Australia. Described from a single specimen collected during May, 1929, by Mr. K. Langford Smith.

Holotype in the Australian Museum, Reg. No. R.9930.

Affinities.—*R. roperi* has fifteen rows of scales, as have *R. bertholdi* and *R. fuscicollis*, but it differs from the former mainly by having a shovel-shaped instead of a rounded snout, and from the latter by having only one anal and temporals 1 + 1, *R. fuscicollis* having two anals and temporals 2 + 2.

Superficially *R. roperi* resembles *R. campbelli*, a species which I recently described¹ as new, from Almaden, Queensland, but the latter has seventeen rows of scales, two anals, and the rostral shorter than its distance from the frontal.

The Western Australian species, *R. semifasciatus*, also resembles *R. roperi* in the shape and general disposition of the head shields, but it has seventeen rows of scales and two anals.

A tabulation of the main characters is given below for comparison.

	Scales.	Anals.	Temporals.	Subcaudals.	Ventrals.	Snout.
<i>R. bertholdi</i> ..	15	2	1 + 1	15-25	126	Rounded
<i>R. fuscicollis</i> ..	15	2	2 + 2	20	143	
<i>R. roperi</i> ..	15	1	1 + 1	19	162	Shovel-shaped.
<i>R. campbelli</i> ..	17	2	1 + 1	18	153	
<i>R. fasciolatus</i> ..	17	2	1 + 1	22-27	145-161	
<i>R. australis</i> ..	17	2	1 + 1	18-20	152-163	
<i>R. semifasciatus</i>	17	2	1 + 1	17-25	143-170	

Heteronota walshi, sp. nov.

Head oviform, depressed, more than half as long as its distance from the vent. Snout longer than the diameter of the orbit. Orbit as long as its distance from the nostril and equal to its distance from the ear. Ear vertical elliptic, small, and not as large as the pupil of the eye, which may be round or a vertical slit. Body about as high as broad at the centre, covered above with small granules intermixed with subtriangular but bluntly keeled tubercles, which are scattered irregularly over the back and sides. The under surface is covered with small, cycloid, subimbricate scales or granules, which are smallest on the gular region, becoming larger towards the vent. The snout is covered with granules similar to those on the dorsal surface of the body. The rostral is much broader than deep, the loreal region well defined. The nostril is bordered by two or three large scales in front and above, with small ones posteriorly, and it is separated from the rostral by the large anterior scale. Six or seven rows of small granules on the snout separate the nostrils. There are thirteen to fourteen upper labials and thirteen lower labials. There are no chin shields, and the mental is large, trapezoid, and narrower than in *H. bynoei*.

Digits not dilated, rounded, rather slender, covered with imbricate, cycloid scales above and a row of plates inferiorly. Claws retractile, situated between

¹ Kinghorn.—REC. AUSTR. MUS., xvii, 4, 1929, p. 191.

two plates, the lower being deeply notched. There are seventeen to eighteen lamellæ under the fourth toe. Tail nodular, about as large as the head and covered with flat scales.

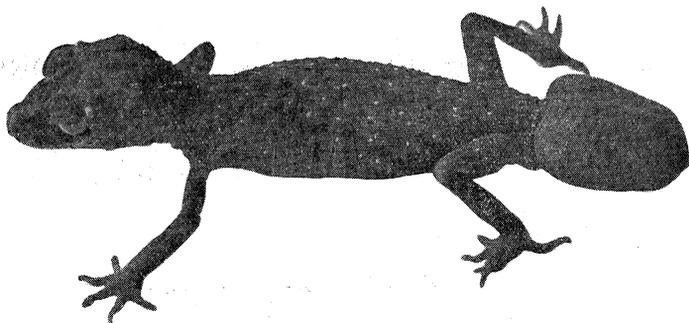


Figure 2.—*Heteronota walshi*, sp. nov.

Colour (from life).—Light brown above, with a few dark brown lines on the snout, sides, and hinder portion of the head and neck. The limbs and body are speckled with dark brown, which, on the mid-dorsal surface, form more or less well defined rings, with a small white tubercle in the middle of each.

Locality.—One specimen (the holotype) from Boggabri, on the northern tablelands of New South Wales, and two specimens without locality, but which I have reason to believe came from the north-west of this State.

Holotype in the Australian Museum, Reg. No. R.10266. Paratypes No. R.6772-3. The following are the measurements in millimetres:

	Holotype R.10266.	R.6772.	R.6773.
Width of head	16	16.5	15
Length of head	23	23	22
Snout to vent	73	65	64
Tail	19 × 19 × 10	21 × 14 × 9	20 × 15 × 10
Fore limb	28	25.5	24
Hind limb	36	35	34

The tail measurements are taken in the following order: length, width, and depth.

ADDENDUM ET CORRIGENDUM.

Page 267, Figure 1, explanation. For *Rhynchælaps smithii*, sp. nov. read *Rhynchælaps roperi*, sp. nov.

Page 308, paragraphs 3 and 5. The late W. W. Thorpe in discussing aboriginal stone files says "Referring once more to Mr. [W. J.] Enright for written detail, on August 1st, 1931, he communicated as follows: 'I do not remember the name my aboriginal informant gave me for the implement you mentioned, but I am endeavouring to find out for you. The information as to the use of this implement came from the head man named "Tony", who was king of the Kutthung (Port Stephens district).'" Mr. Enright inadvertently overlooked the fact that in a paper by himself published in the *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, Vol. xxxiv, 1900, entitled "The Language, Weapons, and Manufactures of the Aborigines of Port Stephens, N.S.W.", he listed, on page 111, "Dip-oon'-gâ, a stone used for sharpening shell fish-hooks", the word sought for.