

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A TRUE ALLANTOPLACENTA OF
THE CONJOINT TYPE IN AN AUSTRALIAN LIZARD.

(Preliminary Communication.)

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(Figures 1-2.)

My attention was recently directed by Mr. J. R. Kinghorn, of the Australian Museum, to some material in the Museum, registered under the number R.7945, and labelled "Eggs, *Tiliqua scincoides*, loc. Hornsby, N.S.W. Oct., 1922."¹

The material was found to consist of the two oviducts, in which were contained a number of "eggs," these causing large swellings spaced at intervals along the course of the ducts. When some of these swellings were opened, the interesting fact was revealed that the allantois enters into distinct relationship with the wall of the oviduct, and there is thus produced an allantoplacenta of a very definite type.

The history of this specimen is as follows:—

It was found in a garden at Hornsby, New South Wales, by a lady, who, in ignorance of the harmlessness of the reptile, smashed its head with a spade. In the damaged condition, it was brought to the Museum, and upon examination proved to be a female. The oviducts in their pregnant condition were removed by Mr. Kinghorn, and placed in Bles' fluid (70% alcohol, 90 parts; 5% formol, 7 parts; glacial acetic acid, 3 parts). Later, the material was transferred to alcohol. The adult, in its damaged condition, was not preserved.

There is an element of doubt, very slight it is true, as to whether this adult specimen was correctly identified.

Of the skinks found in New South Wales, there are two which are alike in general appearance and habits, which differ but slightly in their markings, and which are best distinguished by the difference in the arrangement and degree of development of the head shields. These lizards are *Tiliqua scincoides* Shaw, and *T. nigrolutea* Gray. It is probable that both of these are viviparous, but it is a matter for surprise that the records on this subject are so few and so vague.

¹ The date refers to the time, not of collection, but of registration in the Museum records.