

NOTE ON *PSEUDELAPS MINUTUS* FRY.

By

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

PSEUDELAPS MINUTUS Fry.

Pseudelaps minutus Fry, Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland, xxvii, 4, 1915, pp. 93-94, fig. 7.

This species is identical with *Denisonia coronoides* Gunther. I have examined Fry's type and co-types and find that the main characters are as follows:—Fang followed by three to four maxillary teeth. Subcaudals in a single row. Anal entire. Pupil round.

These, without doubt, place Fry's species in the genus *Denisonia*, while an examination of the specific characters shows that they agree with those of *D. coronoides* as described by Boulenger.¹

I have examined a series of specimens belonging to this species in the Australian Museum collection, ranging from 116 to 520 mm. in length, and find that the characters do not vary beyond the ordinary specific limits. The ventrals range from 148 to 157, and the subcaudals from 44 to 59. The temporals are usually 2×2 , but an occasional abnormal specimen will show 2×2 on one side of the head and 2×3 on the other.

As far as the colour markings are concerned, I find that the yellow nuchal collar may be present or absent, as also may be the light line through the upper labials. The black line from the snout to the temporal region may be either very distinct, or broken up and indefinite. The general colour above is brown, while the scales may be uniform, or striated, and the tips darker than the bases.

The top of the head is generally much darker than the body, and more or less mottled, while the snout is not so dark and profusely speckled with dark brown. The ventrals may be uniform yellowish, or there may be a few speckles, and dark edges to the scales. The chin and throat is almost invariably dark and mottled.

It is worthy of note that both *Pseudelaps christeanus* and *minutus* were misplaced under *Pseudechis* by C. Tate Regan,² a slip which, if not corrected, might lead to considerable confusion among authors.

¹Boulenger—Brit. Mus. Cat. Snakes, iii, 1896, p. 336.

²C. Tate Regan—Zoological Record, lii, 1915, Reptiles, p. 15.