

HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES NO. 4.

By J. R. KINGHORN.

(Figure 1.)

This paper contains the description of a new species of *Typhlops*; notes on *Denisonia daemelii*, *Acanthophis pyrrhus*, *Hydrophis ornatus ocellatus*, and remarks on the status and affinities of *Demansia psammophis*, *Denisonia fasciata*, *Oedura rhombifer* and *Oedura marmorata*.

Typhlops yirrikalae, sp. nov.

(Figure 1.)

Definition.—Nasal cleft in contact with the first labial. Scales in 24 rows round the centre of the body. Head and snout rounded. Nostrils inferior, nasal not completely divided, the nasal cleft terminating a fraction in front of the nostril, and not visible from above. Rostral from above, rounded, as broad as long, more than half the width of the head, and not extending back to the level of the eyes; the portion visible from below is broader than long. Preoculars narrower than the nasals, the latter forming a narrow suture, separating the prefrontal from the rostral. Frontal smaller than the prefrontal. Parietals and inter-parietals about equal in size, but not much larger than the nuchals. Total length 182 mm. Width about 3 mm.

Colour, in spirits.—Uniform yellowish, with no indication of spots or striations.

Locality.—Yirrikala Mission Station, near Caledon Bay, Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

Affinity.—The general shape of the head of *T. yirrikalae* is like that of its nearest relative *T. nigrescens*, but it differs in having 24 rows of scales, the nasal groove terminating just beyond the nostril, and a broader rostral.

Holotype.—In the Australian Museum, Reg. No. R.12381. Described from a single specimen, collected by the Rev. W. Chaseling.

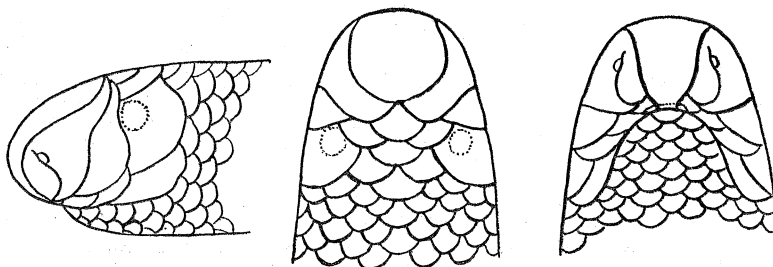


Figure 1.—*Typhlops yirrikalae*, sp. nov.

Demansia psammophis Schlegel.

Elaps psammophis, Schlegel, Phys. Serpens., ii, 1837, p. 455.

Diemenia psammophis, Blgr., Brit. Mus., Cat. Snakes, iii, 1896, p. 322.

Demansia torquata, Gnth., Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (3), ix, 1862, p. 130.

Diemenia olivacea, Blgr., Brit. Mus., Cat. Snakes, iii, 1896, p. 323.

Elapognathus ornaticeps, Macl., Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., ii, 1878, p. 221.

Diemenia ? ornaticeps, Blgr., Brit. Mus., Cat. Snakes, iii, 1896, p. 324.