

# A NEW SPECIES OF TYPHLOPS FROM NEW BRITAIN.

By J. R. KINGHORN.

Zoologist, Australian Museum.

(Figures 1-3.)

## *Typhlops keasti*, sp. nov.

Snout long, acute and vertically compressed, forming a chitinous sharp lateral edge. Rostral long, narrow, its length above being greater than its distance from the anterior level of the eyes. Nostrils large, oblique, and below the lateral margin of the snout, which is very pronounced. The nostril is nearer to the rostral than to the preocular, and its distance from the eye is equal to four times its distance from the tip of the snout. Nasal cleft joining the second upper labial, and extending beyond the nostril, but not dividing the nasal shield. There are two upper shields forming a suture with the nasal; these might be termed internasals, and they are separated from each other by the suture between the rostral and the frontonasal. The frontal joins the frontonasal and the parietal, these shields and the supraoculars being subequal in

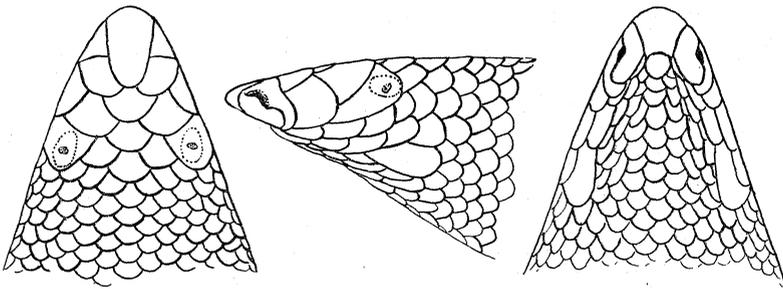


Figure 1.  
*Typhlops keasti* Kinghorn.

J. R. Kinghorn, del.

size. There are seven scales bordering the parietals and the supraoculars. The preocular is the largest shield on the snout; it forms a very narrow suture with the ocular, and a wide suture with the prefrontal. The ocular is oblique, and is much broader above than at the junction with the preocular; it is separated from the upper labials by two rows of subequal scales. The scales are in 32 rows round the centre of the body. The total length is 285 mm., and the diameter of the body at the centre is 5 mm. The tail terminates in a very hard, thorn-like spine.

*Colour* (in spirits).—Greyish above, yellowish below, the tail spine being black.

*Locality*.—Jacquinot Bay, New Britain. Described from a single specimen collected in June, 1945, by Sergt. J. A. Keast, A.I.F., now a member of the Museum staff. Holotype No. R.12856, in the Australian Museum.

*Affinities*.—*T. keasti* is allied to *T. solomonis* Parker,<sup>1</sup> and in a lesser degree to *T. infralabialis* Waite,<sup>2</sup> both from the Solomon Islands, and the figures of these are given here for comparative purposes. It will be noted that whilst all three species have very pointed snouts, that of *T. keasti* is very much longer than either of the

<sup>1</sup> *T. solomonis* Parker, *Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Belg.*, Tome xv, 60, 1929, p. 4, fig.

<sup>2</sup> *T. infralabialis* Waite, *Rec. South Austr. Mus.*, i, 1, 1918, pp. 35-36, fig. 25; and Kinghorn, *Herp. Sol. Is.*, *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, xvi, 3, p. 141, fig. 15 (after Waite).