

waste which probably afforded suitable material in which to deposit the eggs. The adult, a female, took flight at slight alarm. She was irregularly coiled about the eggs and not in close contact with them. The eggs, not adherent, were white and ranged in length from 24.5 to 26.8 mm., in width from 16.2 to 18.5 mm. One egg contained a barely pigmented embryo 99 mm. long.

On this same day a batch of 5 similar eggs was bought. One contained an unpigmented embryo 71 mm. long.

The following day in a lower valley I saw a nest containing 6 eggs also guarded by a female *O. harti* (No. 34942). It was located immediately beneath a big, flat stone lying out in an open, dry field fully exposed to the sun. There was no other significant difference between this nest and the one described above. The eggs were slightly smaller, ranging in length from 22.5 to 23.1 and in width from 15.9 to 16.8 mm.

The last nest, also located near a pile of decaying bamboo waste, was examined on August 28 (Plate XVII, fig. 1). It was strikingly alike, and near to, the one discovered August 17. Even though the female took flight at a slight disturbance of her nest, it was on the very edge of a much-used path. The six eggs were about the same size as those seen August 18.

Finally, on September 3, seven eggs were bought containing well-developed embryos.

Between the 3d and 10th of September the remaining eggs of one of the two lots secured August 17 hatched into young 143, 142 and 134 mm. long, respectively, their tails occupying 0.56 to 0.57 of the totals.

No. 34944 contains 6 well-developed eggs.

This species is very secretive. I was never fortunate enough to run across one roaming abroad. When handled it does not bite.

Lacertidæ

APELTONOTUS

Apeltonotus sylvaticus, new species

TYPE.—A. M. N. H. No. 34975; ♀; Ch'ung-an Hsien, northwest Fukien Province, China; April-September, 1926; Clifford H. Pope.

DIAGNOSIS.—This species differs from *dorsalis* in having a less distinct collar, much shorter limbs, more scales across the middle of the back, a greater number of transverse series of ventral plates, and a distinctive color pattern.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPES.—Head twice as long as broad, its length contained four and one-half times in total length to vent; snout acutely pointed, a little longer than postocular part of head, with a sharp canthus, and a vertical, slightly concave loreal region. Neck slightly narrower than head. Hind limb stretched forward fails

to reach elbow; fore limb stretched backward fails to touch knee; hind limb 0.42 of distance from tip of snout to vent; foot slightly longer than head; tail long, slender.

Nasals not in contact behind rostral; rostral and frontonasal forming a short suture; frontonasal longer than broad; frontal as long as its distance from end of snout, narrower behind than in front; parietals about one and one-half times as long as broad, outer border convex; interparietal small, slightly longer than frontonasal; occipital very small; 2 large and 2 small supraoculars; supraciliaries 5, separated from supraoculars by a series of granules. Rostral just separated from nostril; a single postnasal; anterior loreal barely half as large as posterior, only third and fourth upper labial in contact with the posterior loreal. Four pairs of chin-shields, first pair completely in contact, second barely separated posteriorly.

Scales on back largest, strongly keeled; those on sides granular, the two types gradually merging, slightly intermixed; 44 scales across middle of body. Ventral plates in six longitudinal, twenty-four transverse rows, plates of outer longitudinal row distinctly keeled and pointed, remainder barely so. Preanal plate large, smooth, bordered by a semicircle of 6 plates as large as those of last transverse row of ventrals; 4 of 6 are anterior, 2 lateral. Three femoral pores on each side; 26 lamellæ under fourth toe. Caudal scales strongly keeled, twice as long as largest dorsals.

Color, dark green above, light below, lightest on the throat. A continuous white stripe from subocular to base of hind leg. This line passes just below tympanum, above base of fore limb, and along fourth to sixth lateral rows of scales; vivid on head and neck, distinctly less so on body.

NOTES ON PARATYPES.—The 4 paratypes (Nos. 34972-974, 34976) and the lot of embryonic material (No. 35467) all come from the type locality. The former agree with the type in having an ill-defined collar; hind legs from 0.43 to 0.47 of the length from snout to vent as compared to 0.48 to 0.52 in five *dorsalis* (among which only one falls below 0.51); 41-42 scales across the back against 28-35 in *dorsalis*; 28-32 transverse series of ventrals compared to 24 in *dorsalis*, and a uniform color pattern varying only a little in the intensity of the white line on the body.

The chin-shields are always 4-4 with 2 pairs almost completely in contact in all but one in which those of the second pair are more than half separated. Boulenger (1921) says that in *dorsalis* three pairs are in contact but I find upon examining six specimens only two pairs in contact in three, two and a fraction of the third in two, and three on one side in contact with two on the other in an irregular one. The slight difference in this respect between the two species is negligible. With one exception the nasals form a suture in *dorsalis*, but in *sylvaticus* they are in contact in only two out of five, the rostral touching the frontonasal in three. The femoral pores are 3-3 in two, 2-2 in one, and 2-3 in one. The longitudinal series of ventrals are constantly 6, all of which are keeled in one, the outer distinctly so in one, while in the other two there is only a trace of a keel even on the outer series, the rest lacking it entirely. The type is the longest, measuring 61.5 mm. from tip of snout to vent. No. 34976 has the longest tail, 200 mm., while its body is 58 mm. long. The lamellæ under the fourth toe in the 4 paratypes are 25, 26, 27 and 29, respectively.

The type and another gravid female held 3 well-developed eggs apiece and were taken on July 7 and 9. The lot of four embryos (No. 35467) was taken from as many almost spherical, finely mottled, pale

brown eggs brought in on August 19 at Kuatun. One of the eggs measured 10.8×8.1 , and another 10.9×8.6 mm.

These lizards had a very erratic distribution in the Kuatun region for they were common in a well-forested valley across the creek from Ch'ilichao but extremely rare or absent everywhere else. I encountered them there many times but so swiftly did they run over the forest floor and so wary were they that their capture was very hard to effect. They do not even suggest *Takydromus* in habits for I saw them only in or at the edge of forests and I could detect no ability to climb on their part.

The discovery of this genus in China is very significant and its occurrence in Formosa may be safely predicted.

TAKYDROMUS

Takydromus septentrionalis Günther

In the present collection there are one hundred and fifty-one specimens, three of which are from Hok'ou (Nos. 35114-116), three from Futsing Hsien (Nos. 34164, 34169 and 34171), thirty-five from Yenping (Nos. 33027-046 and 33048-062), and one hundred and ten from Ch'ungan Hsien (Nos. 33492-516, 33518-528, 33530-535, 34977-35044). Five lots of eggs come from Ch'ungan Hsien (Nos. 35460-64). Schmidt (1927) has already reported on thirty specimens from Anhwei, Hunan and Szechwan Provinces, also a part of the Third Asiatic Expedition's collection.

Hok'ou is the only new locality record, for Boulenger (1899) has recorded six examples from Ch'ungan Hsien ("Kuatun"), and Stejneger (1925) records three from Futsing and two from Yenping. Stanley (1914) also includes "Fokien" specimens in his list of Chinese reptiles. Mell (1922) found it common in northern Kwangtung, especially along the Hunan border.

The present series exhibits no notable variation. A summary of four important characters follows.

CHIN-SHIELDS.—In every specimen but one, 3 pairs were found. This one, from Ch'ungan Hsien, has 4 on one side and 3 on the other, one of these slightly notched as if a fourth had been almost formed on that side too. Stejneger (1925) reports a similar condition in a specimen from Nanking. Boulenger and Werner have observed it but also in a very limited number of specimens.

FEMORAL PORES.—These are invariably 1-1.

DORSAL LONGITUDINAL SCALE ROWS.—The most irregular in this respect are the three specimens from Futsing, all of which have eight rows, the two innermost dropping out a short distance behind the fore limbs, the next two running some distance back before disappearing.

By far the greatest number of specimens have 6 rows, the inner pair of which are small and nearly always drop out at a point slightly nearer the fore than the hind