in this respect. There are no projecting lobules or granules at the edge of the ear opening. On the whole, I cannot say that there is any distinction between this specimen and others from further west which would justify its being regarded as representing even a local race; but it is certainly larger and brighter than the majority of specimens I have examined. It has thirty scales round the middle of the body. The " obscure dark edging " of the ventral scales of this species to which I have referred in the paper cited above, appears to be entirely due to bad preservation of the specimens examined. *L. himalayanum* is by far the commonest skink in Kumaon between 4,000 and 7,000 feet. There are specimens in the Indian Museum said to come from the plains, but their history is one which has proved untrustworthy in other instances and I think that the locality attributed to them is incorrect. The habits of *L. himalayanum* differ somewhat from those of *L. sikkimense*, as the former appears to avoid the sun and is often found in rather damp situations. It is very abundant on the banks of the lake at Naini Tal (6,400 feet) and in gardens in the town of Simla, in the neighbourhood of which it is common at least as high as 9,000 feet. Males taken in this district in April and May had a lateral stripe of orange or bright reddish-brown running along the body below the dark lateral band. This conspicuous stripe was absent from females taken at the same season and from specimens of both sexes examined in Kumaon in autumn. The oviducts of the females contained eggs in May but not in September.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE VI.

FIG. 1.—*Gymnodactylus himalayicus*, Annandale.
FIG. 2.—*Hemidactylus nepalensis*, sp. nov.
FIG. 3.—*Lygosoma himalayanum* (Günther), from the Little Nepal Valley.
FIG. 4.—*Lygosoma sikkimense*, Blyth, from the same locality.

OPHIDIA.

By F. Wall, Major, I.M.S., C.M.Z.S.

I am indebted to Dr. N. Annandale for giving me an opportunity of examining a small collection of snakes from Nepal, and permitting me to make the following remarks upon them.

Among the twenty specimens, eleven species are represented, most of which are common.

The names used are those applied by Boulenger in his *Catalogue of Snakes in the British Museum*, 1893-96.

The specimens are as follows :—

1. *Python molurus.*

The head and part of the body are preserved of a small example from Bichiakoh, Nepal Terai.

[Occurs at least as high as 5,000 feet in Kumaon, and is said to be found occasionally at Darjiling (6,000 feet)[1].—N. A.]

2. *Tropidonotus piscator.*

There are two examples from Pharping (5,000 feet). These are greenish olive, and somewhat indistinctly chequered, the darkish spots being ill defined and smaller than the interspaces.

[Common in the Bhim Tal.—N. A.]

3. *Tropidonotus platyceps.*

An example from Pharping (5,000 feet). Quite typical.

4. *Tropidonotus stolatus.*

Four examples from Gowchar and Pharping (5,000 feet). Quite typical.

[Common at Bhim Tal.—N. A.]

5. *Tropidonotus chrysargus.*

Two small specimens from Chitlong, Little Nepal Valley, I have little hesitation in referring to this species. They are nearly uniform olive-green in colour, with two white dots on the head, one on each parietal shield. The upper lip is white, abruptly defined above. The labial sutures are not pigmented. In A specimen the chin shields are finely specked with grey; in B purely white. There are some shield differences between the two specimens which, however, I do not consider sufficient to separate them, as they agree in other respects.

A specimen.—Ventrals 173. Subcaudals 80. Nasal shields touch the first supralabial only. Temporals 2+2.

B specimen.—Ventrals 184? Subcaudals 88. Nasal shields touch the first and second supralabials. Temporals 1+1.

The scales in both are 19 in anterior and midbody, 17 at a point two headslengths before the vent. The labials are 8, with the third, fourth and fifth touching the eye in both specimens.

6. *Trachischium tenuiceps.*

Two quite typical specimens are from Chandragiri (8,000 feet).

7. *Lycodon aulicus.*

One example of Boulenger's Variety D (*Catalogue*, vol. i, p. 353) from Katmandu, Nepal Valley (4,500 feet).

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1 Rai Bahadur R. B. Sanyal tells me that he has seen a specimen killed near the town of Darjiling.—N. A.

8. *Zamenis mucosus.*

There are two specimens, one from Gowchar, the other from Kakani, Nepal.

9. *Dipsadomorphus multifasciatus.*

With little hesitation I refer two specimens obtained from Chitlong to this species.

Both agree in the following ways : The scales are 21 in anterior and midbody, 15 at a point two headslengths before the vent. The vertebral row at midbody is but moderately enlarged. The præocular is well separated from the frontal. The supralabials eight, with the third, fourth, and fifth touching the eye. Temporals two anterior. Posterior sublinguals quite separated by two small pairs of scales. The horizontal diameter of the eye equals its distance from the anterior edge of the nostril. They are both marked with oblique, equidistant, costal dark lines.

A specimen is pinkish-brown, almost dove coloured. The ventrals are 233 and the subcaudals 106 ?

B specimen is pink. The ventrals are 232 and subcaudals 102.

10. *Lachesis monticola.*

Two good examples are from Kakani and Chitlong, and quite typical. In A specimen the scales are 23 in the anterior and midbody, 21 at a point two headslengths before the vent. The ventrals are 153, subcaudals more than 40 (tail imperfect).

B specimen has the scales 23 in the anterior and middle parts of the body, 19 at a point two headslengths before the vent. The ventrals are 148 and subcaudals 48.

11. *Lachesis gramineus.*

One example from Katmandu (4,500 feet). It is uniform green dorsally, with a white flank line continued well on to the tail. The belly is greenish posteriorly, white anteriorly. The ventrals are 170, and subcaudals 57. Scales 21 in midbody.

[Major Manners-Smith tells me that it is a common belief in Nepal that there are no poisonous snakes in that country. In Sikhim and Kumaon, however, the cobra, the hamadryad, and Russell's viper are known to range to a considerable altitude. The only snake which I saw in the Simla district was *Ancistrodon himalayanum*, a specimen of which was killed by my companion Mr. I. H. Burkill at an altitude of about 9,000 feet near Matiana.—N. A.]

FISHES.

By C. Tate Regan, B.A.

The fishes sent by Dr. N. Annandale have been referred to seven species, one of which is new to science.