

though closely related to others of the genus found on crows and ravens, is a well-marked one.

Nitzschia minor, Kellogg and Paine. Specimens taken from the Swift *Cypselus affinis* (Calcutta). The species was described in 1914 from specimens from the same host taken in the same locality and included in the earlier sending from the Indian Museum.

Laemobothrium titan, Piaget. Male, female and young specimens from a Baza, *Baza jerdoni* (Kurseong, E. Himalayas)

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REPTILES.

An abnormal specimen of *Naja bungarus*, Schleg.

Dr. Boulenger in the "Fauna" volume on "Reptilia and Batrachia" shows a rhomboidal shield, in between the *occipitals* anteriorly in fig. 114. on page 390, but in the description he says that the *parietals* are followed by a pair of large shields (*occipitals*), no mention being made of this shield.

Major Wall has also in his book on the "Poisonous Snakes of India and how to recognize them" (1913) shown the *parietals* followed by a pair of large *occipitals*; and he says that these (*occipitals*) are in contact with one another throughout.

Sir J Fayrer, K.C.S.I., in the "Thanatophidia of India" does not show any shield in between the *occipitals* which are shown in contact throughout. In some specimens examined the condition is exactly as shown by Wall or Fayrer, but in the singular specimen about which this note has been written the condition is exactly as shown in fig. 114, on page 390 of the "Fauna" volume.

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BATRACHIA.

A South Indian Flying Frog: RHACOPHORUS MALABARICUS (Jerdon).

(Extract from a letter). I have the honour to state that I have collected a specimen of a flying tree-frog near Sagar, a place in the Malnad forest regions, or the Western Ghats portion, of Mysore Province, some twenty miles from the famous Gersoppa Falls. I happened to catch it in this way. I was collecting and photographing natural science specimens in the locality for my College. As I approached a big tree with my camera, my attention was suddenly drawn by a rustling noise in the leaves above and, as I looked up, I found a beautifully coloured little animal having all the appearance of a small bird, falling from the top of the tree in a slanting direction. Its flight was curious, inasmuch as it did not flap its "wings" All

the same, a sort of a whir was audible as it flew slantingly. It alighted on the ground a good distance from the tree it darted from. It is a pity I failed to measure the distance travelled by the animal. It may, I think, be somewhere between thirty to forty yards. My attendant happening to be close to where the creature alighted ran and caught it by throwing his cloth over it. When I went to see what it was, I found to my intense surprise and delight that it was not a bird, but a gaily coloured flying tree-frog.

Its upper side was coloured a beautiful grass-green, the webs bright red, and its underside a bright yellow. It possessed well-developed adhesive discs at the ends of its fingers and toes with which it could attach itself to any surface easily. It could with ease attach itself to the wet slippery sides of the glass bottle in which I carried it home. It was crouching in the bottle in such a way that it looked a lump of dull green. When among the green leaves, it could, I think, escape detection most efficiently. The brilliancy of its colour was to be seen only during its flight and might serve for purposes of recognition by others of its kind. I already mentioned that a kind of whir was audible during its flight. This whir and the sudden flash of colour as it darted from the tree brings to my mind certain grasshoppers with criptic colouring which make a sort of sound as they leap and take short-flights and at the same time display their brilliantly coloured nether garments of inner wings—a sort of warning to the effect that “danger is near; follow my lead.”

I filled the bottle three-fourths with water, but the frog did not much tolerate the water. It climbed as high as it could up the sides of the bottle and avoided the water. Evidently it did not live in water. Its home and even nesting place probably were always the tree-tops, like those of some of its relatives.

Colouration.

Upper portion of the body, bright grass-green (dull steel-blue in spirit), obscurely dark dotted all over. Finely tuberculated, almost smooth, except at the sides of the upper jaw which are a bit coarser in granulation.

Underside golden yellow; granular a little from the arm pits downwards. Underside of the thighs interspersed with bigger granules. Two streaks of dull yellow at the sides speckled all over with dark brown spots and tinged with red. Upper portion of the arms, the legs, and the last digits of the limbs coloured green like the upper portion of the body. The underside of the legs yellow. The upper arms are coloured yellow, but bear a red streak on the side towards the body. The undersides of the thighs are coloured yellow and bear a reddish blotch which increases in redness towards the knee joint, the redness continuing lightly on the inner unexposed side of the leg towards the calf which is mainly yellow in colour. Web between 1st and 2nd finger, yellow; between 2nd and 3rd finger, yellow towards the distal end only, but the rest bright red; between 3rd and 4th finger, red

throughout, except a little at the two corners near the discs. The web extends only a little beyond half way between the 1st and 2nd finger in each hand, but right up to the discs between the other fingers.

Measurement of the specimen (in spirit).

Length of the body	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
„ „ hand	.. 2 „
„ „ leg	5 „
Area of expanded fore web about	$\frac{1}{2}$ sq. inch.
„ „ hind „	1 $\frac{1}{8}$ sq. inch.
Total area of the four webs about	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ sq. inches.

I wish to express my thanks to my student, Mr. H. Channapayya for the help he gave me, and to Mr. N. P. Muniswami Naidu, Drawing-master, Teachers' College, Saidapet, for the excellent coloured sketch of the frog he has made.

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