

of the Journal, of late Nos. of the Proceedings, and of previous Nos. of the same, deficient in the series of that Society.

---

August 24th.

Prof. HALDEMAN in the Chair.

Letters were read

From Lieut. W. S. Boyd, U. S. Marine Corps, dated Valparaiso, June 27th, 1852, referring to a collection of shells now offered for sale by Mr. Weld, Purser U. S. N.

From Prof. Ehrlich, dated Linez, April 3, 1852, presenting the works announced this evening.

From M. Laporte, Sr., dated Bordeaux, May 4, 1852, in reference to an exchange of foreign insects for those of this country.

---

August 31st.

MR. ORD, President in the Chair.

The Committee on the following paper by Prof. Baird and Mr. Chas. Girard, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

*Characteristics of some New Reptiles in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.*

By SPENCER F. BAIRD and CHARLES GIRARD.

SECOND PART,

Containing the species of the Saurian order, collected by John H. Clark, under Col. J. D. Graham, head of the Scientific Corps U. S. and Mexican Boundary Commission, and a few others from the same or adjoining territories, obtained from other sources, and mentioned under their special headings.

HOLBROOKIA TEXANA, B. and G.—*Cophosaurus texanus*, Trosch. Arch. für Naturg. for 1850, (published in 1852,) 389. Tab. VI.

This species, easily distinguished from *H. maculata*, attains a larger size and is provided with a more elongated tail. The body above and the lower surface of the head are grayish, maculated with small yellowish white subcircular dots; on the upper surface of the tail and hind legs there are transverse bands of black. On the posterior half of the abdomen there are two black crescents, the convexity of which is posterior, and extending from near the back to the belly, without coming into contact either above or below. The space between the crescents, as well as an anterior and posterior area, are yellowish white on the back and blue on the belly. The breast, the medial line of the belly, the inferior surface of thighs and tail, are unicolor, of a uniform yellowish white; the tail underneath presents seven or more large subquadrangular or subcircular black patches. In the female, the abdominal crescents are represented by two lateral spots.

*Localities.*—Along the Rio San Pedro, a tributary of the Bio Grande del Norte.

HOLBROOKIA AFFINIS, B. and G.—This species comes nearest to *H. texana*, from which however it can be readily distinguished by its more slender form and its proportionally larger dorsal scales and superciliary plates. The coloration differs but little from the former in the female, to which sex the only specimen in our possession belongs. The back, however, is darker, scattered with black spots, of which two dorsal rows may be followed from the occiput to the base of the tail, where they meet and constitute a crescent or an angle, the convexity of

which is directed backwards. The tail underneath is provided with black patches similar to those in *H. texana*.

*Locality*.—Found with the preceding species.

*HOLBROOKIA PROPINQUA*, B. and G.—This species, very closely allied to *H. maculata*, is most readily distinguished by a more slender form of body and a more elongated tail. Another character is found in the possession of a more depressed and protruding snout. On the sides of the abdomen there are sometimes two, but generally three, black patches, whilst in *H. maculata* these conditions are reversed.

*Localities*.—Between Indianola and San Antonio (Texas.) We possess one individual of the same species, collected by R. H. Kern, Esq., in a more south-westerly locality.

*HOLBROOKIA MACULATA*, G.—Specimens of this species were obtained on the boundary line between San Antonio (Texas) and El Paso del Norte, thus extending greatly its geographical range.

*CROTAPHYTUS GAMBELII*, B. and G.—Of the size, shape and general appearance of *C. Wislizenii*, from which, however, it can be readily distinguished by the larger scales both on the back and belly. The head is likewise more ovoidal; at any rate the plates which cover its surface are larger, especially on the occipital region. The scales on the sides of the head are larger than in *C. Wislizenii*, especially those of the temporal region. The general distribution of color is the same as in *C. Wislizenii*; the only difference consists in the absence of the small yellowish white dots spread all over the body of the latter species. The transverse yellowish markings appear also to be more conspicuous.

*Locality*.—Not precisely known; collected by the late Dr. Wm. Gambel during his last visit to California. Specimens also in the Academy of Natural Sciences.

*CROTAPHYTUS DORSALIS*, B. and G.—A small and very characteristic species. The snout is short, truncated or rather rounded, giving to the head a much greater resemblance to that of *C. collaris* than to that of either *C. Wislizenii* or *C. Gambelii*. The scales are proportionally larger than in any of the known species of the genus. Along the dorsal line, a row of still larger and carinated scales, constitutes another very distinctive mark between this species and the others, its congeners. The tail seems rather compressed and is one and a half times the length of the body. The ground color above is bluish brown with crowded yellowish-white subcircular spots. The tail is alternately semi-annulated with bluish-brown and yellowish-white. The lower part of the body is unicolor, except under the head, where there are several narrow and oblique bluish streaks.

*Locality*.—Desert of Colorado, California. Collected by Dr. John L. LeConte.

This species, according to the notes of Dr. LeConte, in running, carries its body very high above the ground, with the tail frequently elevated over the back, somewhat like a squirrel. It runs with very great swiftness, over the sand, making for its hole whenever pursued.

*UTA ORNATA*, B. and G.—This species may be distinguished from *U. Stansburiana*, of which it has the general appearance, by a dorsal space covered with five or six rows of scales larger than those on the sides of the body. Along the middle of the sides there exists one row of small scutellæ imitating the lateral line in fishes. The ground color is reddish-brown with transversely elongated black patches all along the upper part of the body and tail. The belly is unicolor in the female, whilst it is blue in the male.

*Localities*.—On the Rio San Pedro (Texas) and provinces of Sonora. Specimens of the same species were collected by Dr. John L. LeConte at San Diego (Cal.) and San Francisco (Cal.)

*SCELOPORUS POINSETTII*, B. and G.—*Sc. torquatus* var B. Wiegman?—This species, although more intimately related to *Sc. torquatus* than to any other of the same genus, is nevertheless easily distinguishable from the latter by the form and structure of the scales on the middle region of the back, which are subcircu-